HIDEYUKI KIKUCHI'S

Vampire Hunter D

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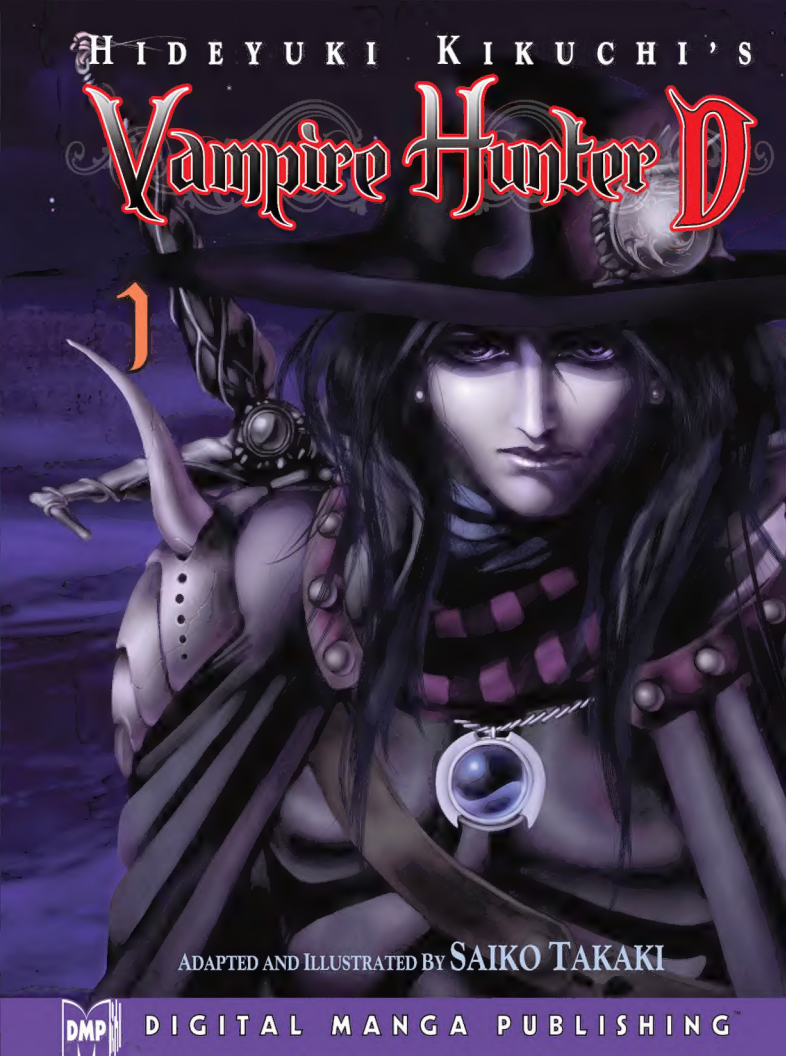

ADAPTED AND ILLUSTRATED BY SAIKO TAKAKI

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HIDEYUKI KIKUCHI'S

Vampire Hunter D

Volume 1

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SAIKO TAKAKI

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Lettering	Geoff Porter
Graphic Design	Eric Rosenberger/Wendy Lee
Editing	Daryl Kuxhouse/Fred Lui
Editor-in-Chief	Fred Lui
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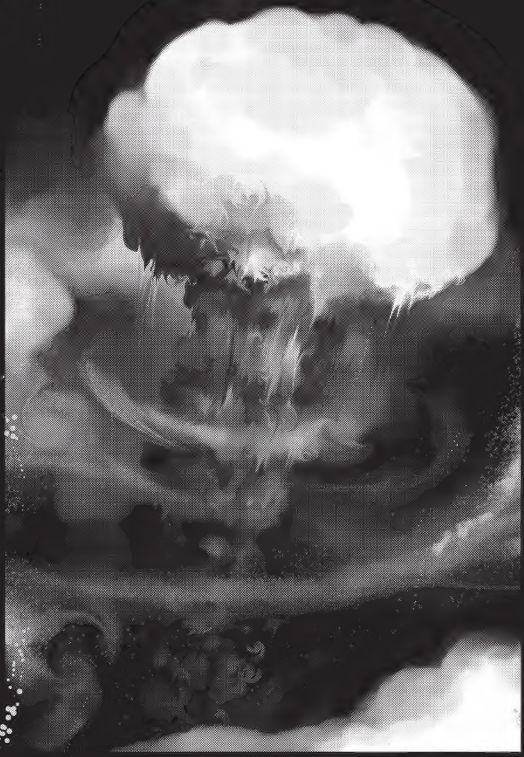

THE LEADERS OF THE WORLD FINALLY TOOK AIM AT ONE ANOTHER.

NUCLEAR WAR RAVAGED THE LAND, AND THOSE WHO MANAGED TO SURVIVE WERE LEFT TO WITNESS THE FALL OF CIVILIZATION.

COSMIC RAYS AND RADIATION SPAWNED MUTANT BEINGS, AND MANKIND REGRESSED TO AN IMPOVERISHED LIFESTYLE NOT SEEN SINCE THE MIDDLE AGES.

AND SO, NEW LEADERS ROSE OUT OF DARKNESS AND OUT OF MYTH TO SEIZE CONTROL.

THEY WERE THE NOBILITY. THEY WERE **VAMPIRES.**

THEY RULED MANKIND WITH OVERWHELMING FEAR AND SCIENTIFIC CAPABILITY.
CIVILIZATION THRIVED UNDER THE ARISTOCRATIC RULE.
BUT AFTER FIVE THOUSAND YEARS IN THE SEAT OF POWER...
THEY, TOO, FELL SUDDENLY INTO DECLINE.

THE YEAR IS 12,090 A.D.
COSMIC RAYS AND RADIATION SPAWNED MUTANT BEINGS,
BEINGS OF GREAT STRENGTH AND AGILITY-- THEY ARE HUNTERS OF THE WORLD'S MOST GRUESOME MONSTERS.
AMONG THEM, ONLY THOSE WITH SUPERIOR WISDOM AND STRENGTH, WHOSE SOUND SPIRITS ARE LIKE IMPENETRABLE WALLS, AND WHO FEAR NOT EVEN THOSE THAT GOVERN THEM--
--COULD BECOME "VAMPIRE HUNTERS".

HIDEYUKI KIKUCHI'S

Vampire Hunter D

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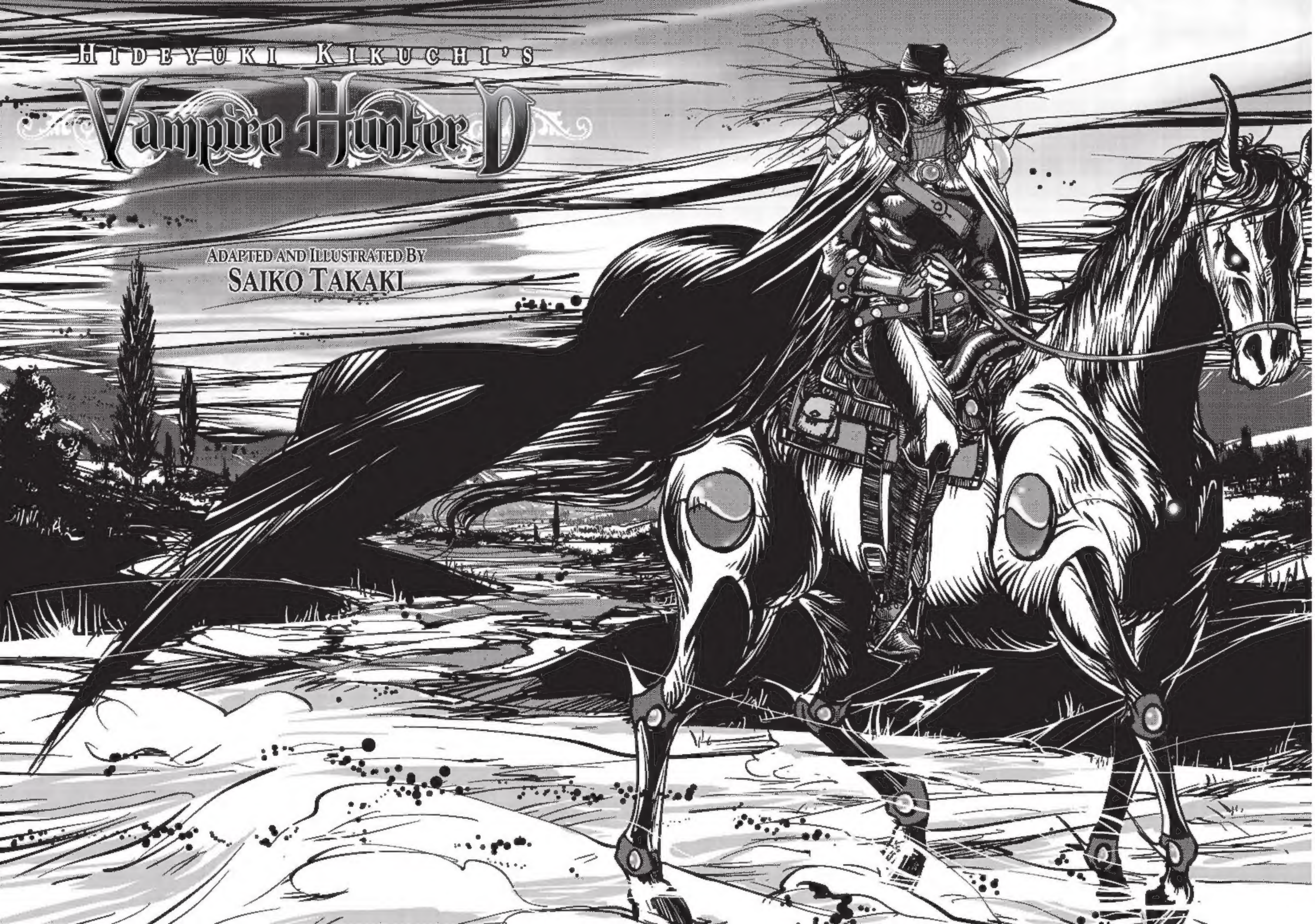


IS THAT SWORD JUST FOR *SHOW*?!

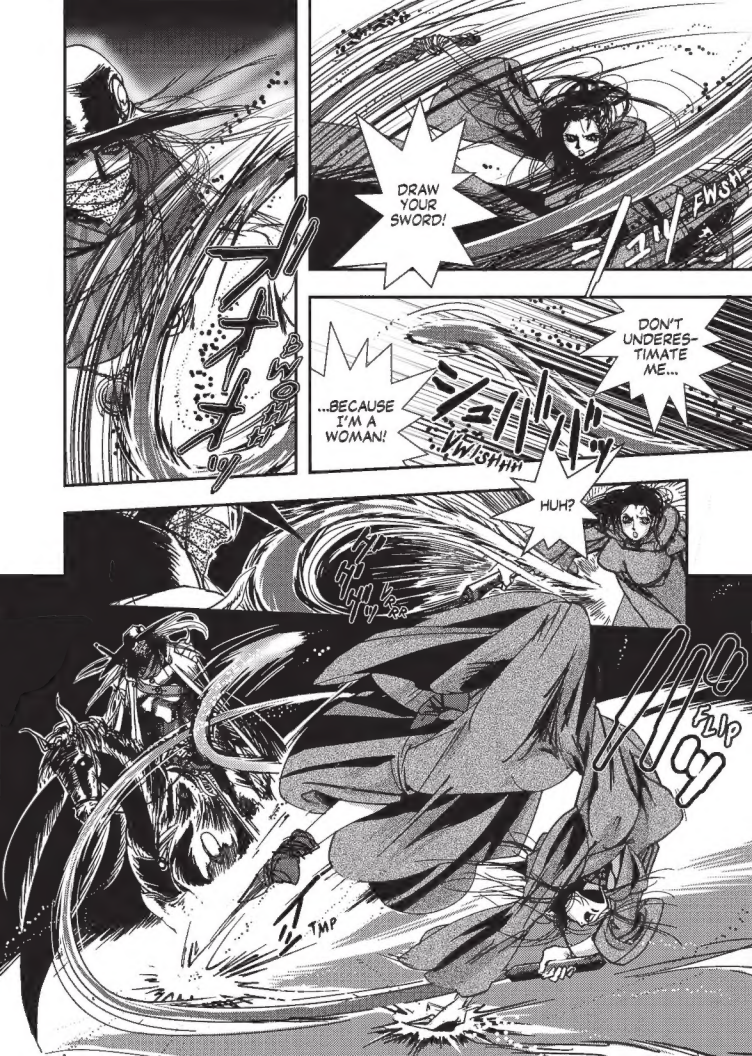
IF YOU WANT TO GET TO RANSYLVA...

YOU'LL HAVE TO GO THROUGH *ME!*

Welcome to Ransylva

ARE YOU A HUNTER?

I TAKE IT YOU'RE A DRIFTER.


DRAW YOUR SWORD!
FWSH
...BECAUSE I'M A WOMAN!
VWISHHH
DON'T UNDERESTIMATE ME...
HUH?
FLIP
TMP

HOW ABOUT THIS?
WOOM
SKRRR
DAMN!
YOU'RE GOOD! BUT...
BWAH
LET'S TRY THAT AGAIN!!

SWISH
SWISH
SWIP
SWIP
DON'T TRY ANYTHING, OR I'LL RIP YOU APART!
O-HO-HO!
THAT'S WHAT YOU GET FOR LETTING THE NAKED FORM OF A WOMAN DISTRACT YOU.
...
...
?!

PWSH
thh!
WAIT!
LISTEN!
I'M SORRY I ATTACKED YOU.
NO...
I'VE WAITED LONG FOR SOMEONE LIKE YOU!
BWP
HOW ...?
BWP

YOU'RE A HUNTER, AREN'T YOU?
HTAA
A VAMPIRE HUNTER!
I'LL HIRE YOU!
THAT'S NOTHING TO JOKE ABOUT.
I'M SERIOUS. HOW ABOUT IT? WILL YOU COME WITH ME?
WAS SOME-ONE IN YOUR FAMILY BITTEN?
HOW MANY TIMES?
HOW MANY FANGS?
SEE FOR YOUR-SELF...

IT'S THE "KISS OF NOBILITY"...
JUDGING BY THAT MARK, I'D SAY IT WAS A VAMPIRE OF SOME RANK.

I'M IMPRESSED YOU'RE ABLE TO MOVE.
HA
SHING
I...
I'LL MAKE SURE YOU'RE COMPEN-SATED.
AH...

MY BODY...
...TO DO WITH AS YOU PLEASE.
THREE MEALS A DAY...
... ...
AND... ...
THE NOBILITY MIGHT PROVE BETTER COMPANY THAN THE LIKES OF ME.
LIKE HELL THEY WOULD!
I DON'T CARE WHO HAS THEIR WAY WITH ME!
IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH A PERSON'S WORTH!
THAT DOESN'T MATTER TO ME AT ALL. WELL? WILL YOU COME WITH ME?
VERY WELL.
BUT IF I MAY MAKE ONE THING CLEAR...
YES! ANY-THING!

CALL ME 'D'.
!!
A DHAMPIR?! THIS HANDSOME MAN IS...?
I GUESS... HE DOES SEEM TOO HANDSOME.
I'M A DHAMPIR.
I'M DORIS LANG.
スッ
THAT'S JUST FINE.
I'M SURE ANOTHER HUNTER WILL PASS BY IF YOU WAIT A LITTLE LONGER.
IS THAT ALL RIGHT?

WEL-
COME
HOME!
!
MY
LITTLE
BROTHER,
DAN.
ANYTHING
HAPPEN
WHILE I
WAS
AWAY?
NOPE.
SAME AS
ALWAYS.
GOOD.

WOOOW!
JUMP
HE'LL BE HELPING US OUT ON THE FARM, SO DON'T GET IN HIS WAY.
DAN, I WANT YOU TO MEET MR. D.
BUT YOU WERE REALLY OUT LOOKIN' FOR A MAN, WEREN'T YOU, SIS?
IS HE YOUR TYPE?
YOU SAID YOU WENT OUT TO FIND REPLACEMENTS FOR THE ROBOTS THAT NEED FIXIN'...
DON'T WORRY! I'LL TEACH YOU ALL THE THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ON THE FARM!
DON'T BE ABSURD!
OKAY, OKAY!
PLEASURE TO MEET YOU, D!
THE PLEASURE'S MINE.

...GAVE ME QUITE THE TROUBLE, THERE.
THUD
FIVE DAYS EARLIER...
TCH
I'M TOO FAR FROM THE FARM.
I SHOULD HURRY HOME...

TFF
TFF
TFF
TFF
...
GETTING BACK WILL BE HARD WITHOUT MY HORSE...
IT CAN'T BE HELPED NOW.
HAA
HAA
VWUM
VWUM
VWUM
SWISH
SRAA
?!
VWOOH

WHO'S THERE?!
I KNOW YOU'RE OUT THERE! STOP HIDING AND SHOW YOURSELF!
ヒュッ
SWISH
!!
SWISH

GRIN
A NOBLE !!

GRAAA
AHHH

COUNT MAGNUS LEE...
HE'S THE ACTING LORD IN THIS REGION.
SOME SAY HE'S 100 YEARS OLD, OTHERS EVEN SAY 10,000.
HE'S BEEN HERE LONG BEFORE RANSYLVA EVEN CAME TO BE.
TEN THOUSAND...? THAT WOULD BE QUITE A FORMIDABLE ENEMY.

I WON'T GET IN YOUR WAY! I CAN FIGHT ALONGSI-...
MORE-OVER...
THAT KID-- ALWAYS FULL OF ENERGY...
IT'S ALRIGHT. YOUR BROTHER IS SOUND ASLEEP.
!!
IT'S BEEN FIVE DAYS SINCE THE ATTACK.
HE'LL ALMOST CERTAINLY COME AGAIN TONIGHT.
オオオオオオオオオ...
AUOOO

GACHA
GACHA
GACHA
GACHA
KTOK KTOK KTOK
KTOK KTOK KTOK
KTOK KTOK KTOK

DWOOHH
A WOMAN?
GACHAK
CREAK
TAMP
FSAH

ARE YOU SOME SORT OF BODY-GUARD?
HOW PITIFUL.
I CAME OUT TO SEE THE ONE MY FATHER SPOKE OF... THE GIRL IN THAT HOUSE...
A HUMAN GIRL WHOSE BEAUTY IS UNMATCHED IN THIS LAND, AND WHOSE BLOOD IS LIKE SWEET NECTAR...
BUT IT SEEMS YOU WORTHLESS, PITIFUL SCUM ARE ALL THE SAME.

KILL HIM, GAROU!
YES, MILADY.
I WON'T ALLOW MY FAMILY'S BLOOD TO BE DILUTED BY SUCH FILTH!
I SHALL COLOR THESE FIELDS WITH YOUR BLOOD, AND THEN FEAST ON THAT GIRL UNTIL NOT A DROP REMAINS IN HER WORTHLESS BODY!
オオオオ
OOOHHHH
WHOO
SWIP
SWAP

...IS THIS YOUR FIRST TIME SEEING A REAL WEREWOLF?
SO, WHELP ...
SHIN
LOOOM
I'LL RIP YOU TO SHREDS !!
?!
PWSH

SHH
TMFF
NNG...
THIS ISN'T RIGHT ...
?!
IMPRES-SIVE.
DRIP
ONLY A TRUE WEREWOLF COULD DODGE A STRIKE LIKE THAT.
SHIT!
DRIP

SHOCK
IS HE...? HE COULDN'T BE...
GRRRR...
THE BLOOD... MY WOUND WON'T HEAL!
A DHAMPIR?!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, GAROU?
YOU SHOULD BE INVINCIBLE IN THAT FORM! DO NOT MAKE A GAME OF THIS!
YOUR GUARD IS WOUNDED.
GO AND INFORM YOUR FATHER ...
...THAT IT WOULD BE FOOLISH TO ATTACK THIS FARM AGAIN.
SILENCE!
I AM VAMPIRE HUNTER D.
YOU DARE IMPLY THAT I, LARMICA, DAUGHTER OF THE LORD OF THE FRONTIER REGION COUNT MAGNUS LEE...
...COULD BE DEFEATED BY THE SWORD OF A MERE HUNTER?!

REMEMBER IT WELL.... IF YOU LIVE.
DASH
AH!
!!
KSHHH
MILADY !!
THIS WAY!
BOOM
BAM
KABAM
BOOM
TAK TAK TAK
TAK TAK TAK
BOOM

WE'LL SETTLE THIS LATER, WHELP!!
THE WRATH OF THE NOBILITY WON'T BE FORGOTTEN!
GACHA
GACHA
GACHA

D!
I KNEW I WAS RIGHT TO HIRE YOU!
YOU DID IT! YOU REALLY DID!
CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP
MOOO
RISE
OH...
DORIS! COME OUT, DORIS! IT'S ME!
CLATTER
OH, DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT THAT.
I'M SORRY I FORGOT TO PUT THE BARRIER BACK UP.
JUST DOING MY JOB.

HELLO, DORIS.
QUIET DOWN, WOULD YOU?!
BAM
WHO IS IT?!
GLAD TO SEE YOU'RE ALIVE AND WELL.
IT'S TOO EARLY FOR THIS, GRECO!
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
DON'T MAKE SUCH A SOUR FACE!
WELL? WHAT IS IT?
WHY NOT...
SHOW ME WHAT'S UNDER THAT SCARF?
!
SLAP
GET YOUR HANDS OFF ME.

BEIN' THE MAYOR'S SON, EVEN A SILLY RUMOR W-
AHH!
RUMORS?
C'MON, HONEY. IF YOU'D ONLY AGREE TO THE PROPOSAL I'VE BEEN MAKIN' ALL THIS TIME...
SO THE RUMORS ARE TRUE, THEN.
HEH HEH... OF COURSE NOT.
I'VE NEVER LIKED TRASH LIKE YOU! NOR HAVE I LIKED YOUR OLD MAN OR HIS LITTLE GROUP OF HENCHMEN!
CAN YOU DO ANYTHING WITHOUT YOUR FATHER'S HELP?
KICK
THUD
W-WHOA!
WAIT! DORIS!
CRACK
BITCH! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
SHUT UP!
BITCH!
I TRIED TO BE NICE, BUT YOU GOT SOME FUCKIN' NERVE...
CHIK

...PA--
THAT'S ENOUGH, GRECO!
VWSHH
MY, OH MY.
WE NEED TO SPEAK WITH YOU, DORIS.
SO THE VILLAGE BRASS CAME ALL THE WAY OUT HERE ON ACCOUNT OF SOME SILLY RUMOR?
IT'S ABOUT WHAT'S UNDER THAT SCARF, AS I'M SURE YOU WELL KNOW.
BACK OFF THERE, GRECO.

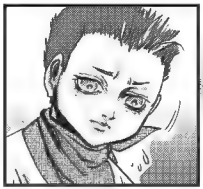
DAN ?!
GAH!
KA-BLAM
IF IT'S SERIOUS, THEN--
--THEN IT'S THE ASYLUM FOR YOU, WHORE!
THAT WE DID.
LET DOCTOR FERRINGO HAVE A LOOK AT THE WOUND ON YOUR NECK. IF IT'S NOTHING— THEN GREAT.
GO ON HOME, YOU FAT OLD PERVERT!
MY SISTER AIN'T GOT NO VAMPIRE BITE ON HER NECK!
MAYOR, PLEASE. RETAIN YOUR COMPOSURE IN FRONT OF THE CHILD.
CALLING THE MAYOR OF THE TOWN A PERVERT? YOU THINK THAT'S FUNNY?
WHAT'D YOU SAY YOU, YOU LITTLE SHIT?!
DO IT. YOU'LL BE PAID A SPECIAL REWARD.
RIGHT ...
THIS IS GOIN' NO-WHERE.
YOU TWO! GRAB THAT BITCH AND BURN HER HOUSE DOWN! I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS.
DOC ...
I SHOULD HOPE THAT YOU CAN TRUST IN ME, DORIS.
I WON'T DO YOU WRONG, NO MATTER HOW BAD THE WOUND IS.

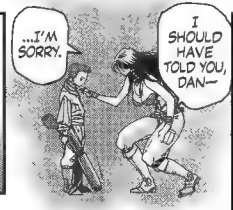
D?!
W-WHA-
WHAT?!
WHOA!
I AM D.
I'VE BEEN HIRED TO HELP HERE.
Y-YOU'RE WHAT NOW?
D?
YOU MUST BE A HUNTER.
THOSE EYES... THAT COLD DEMEANOR... I'D HEARD THERE WAS AN OUTSTANDING HUNTER COMIN' THROUGH THIS REGION, AND THAT HIS NAME WAS D.

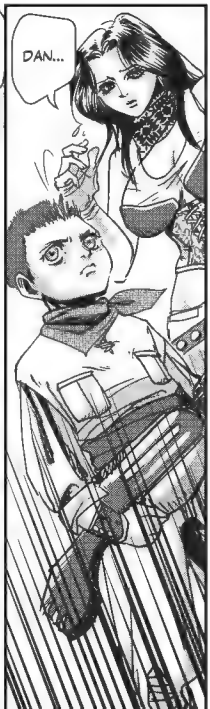
AH...
A DHAMPIR ?!
I ALSO HEARD THAT PERSON WAS A VAMPIRE HUNTER...
...AND HE WAS ALSO A DHAMPIR.
THEN THAT MEANS ...
DORIS WAS ...?
IT IS TRUE.
IF I MAY MAKE A PROPOSAL ...
HMMMM
HMMMM

IF NOT, THEN I'LL HANDLE THE PROBLEM MYSELF!
IF THAT SETTLES THINGS, FINE. IF NOT--
...BEFORE YOU MAKE YOUR FINAL VERDICT ON THE GIRL.
WAIT UNTIL MY WORK IS FINISHED ...
!
THAT WAS MY FINEST CIGAR...
?!
FMP
WNG!
AH!
FMP
WHAT TO DO...
...
...
SHP
I ADVISE SHE STAY HOME AND REST.
THEN I DECLARE DORIS LANG'S CONDITION AS NON-THREATENING.
WELL? WHAT'LL IT BE?
HMM.
DO YOU AGREE, SHERIFF? MAYOR?
FINE.

WE'RE PRAYIN' YOU'LL FIX THINGS 'FORE WE HAVE TO SHOVE A STAKE THROUGH YOUR HEARTS.
WE HAVE YOUR WORD, NOW. WE'LL BE WAITIN' TO HEAR FROM YOU.




...I'M SORRY.
I SHOULD HAVE TOLD YOU, DAN—


DAN...

DO YOU HATE THAT I SHARE A NOBLE'S BLOOD?
WHAT'S WRONG?

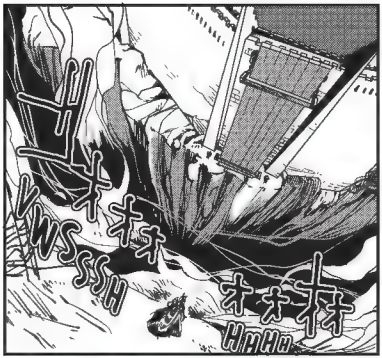
NO.
TEAR
SHAKE
SHAKE

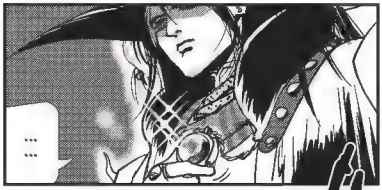
うわあああん
UWAAHN
SNIFFLE
HIC
HIC
DAN...
SNIFFLE
WHAAH
HIC
SNIFFLE
HN...
... ...
LISTEN TO ME, DAN...

I SWEAR I'LL PROTECT YOU AND YOUR SISTER, AND DEFEAT THE NOBLE WHO BIT HER. I PROMISE.
NOW I WANT YOU TO MAKE ME A PROMISE.
SURE!
FROM NOW ON, IF YOU WANT TO SOB AND CRY— THAT'S UP TO YOU.
YOU CAN DO WHAT YOU LIKE.
BUT DON'T EVER MAKE YOUR SISTER CRY.
IF YOU THINK THAT BY CRYING YOU WILL CAUSE HER TO CRY, HOLD IT IN.
IF YOU'RE BEING SELFISH AND SHE STARTS TO CRY, THEN SMILE FOR HER.
...BECAUSE YOU'RE A MAN.
GOT IT?
RUB
YEAH!

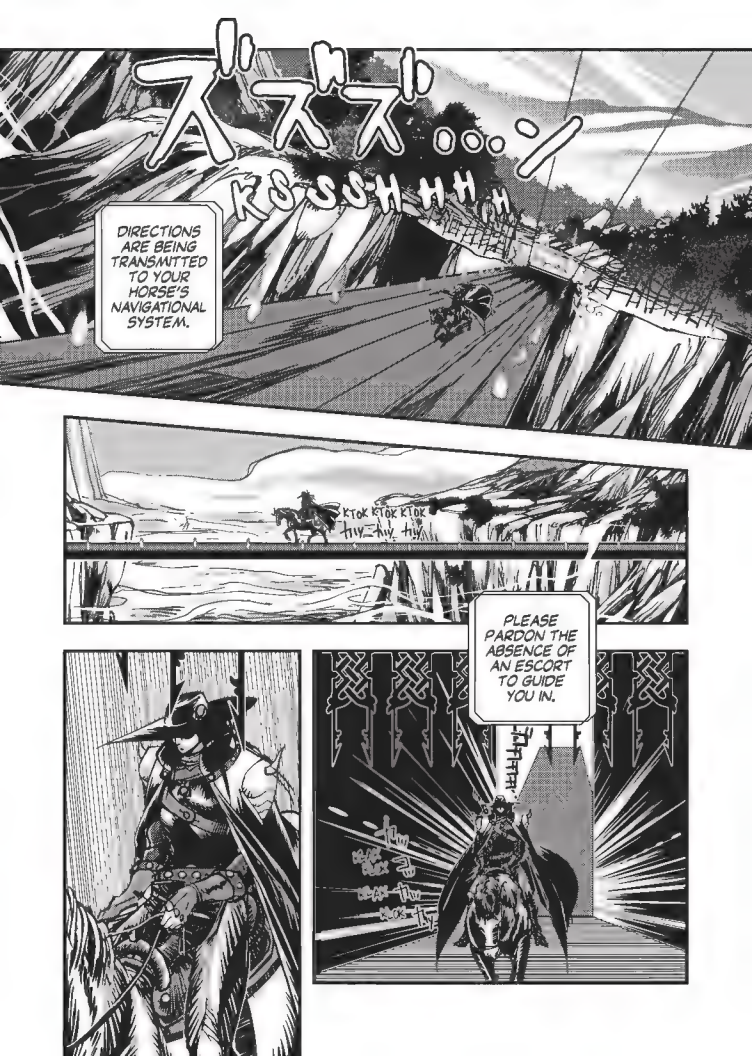
VRRRRR
BEEP
BEEP
BE
BE
BE
BEEP
BE BEEP
BEEP!

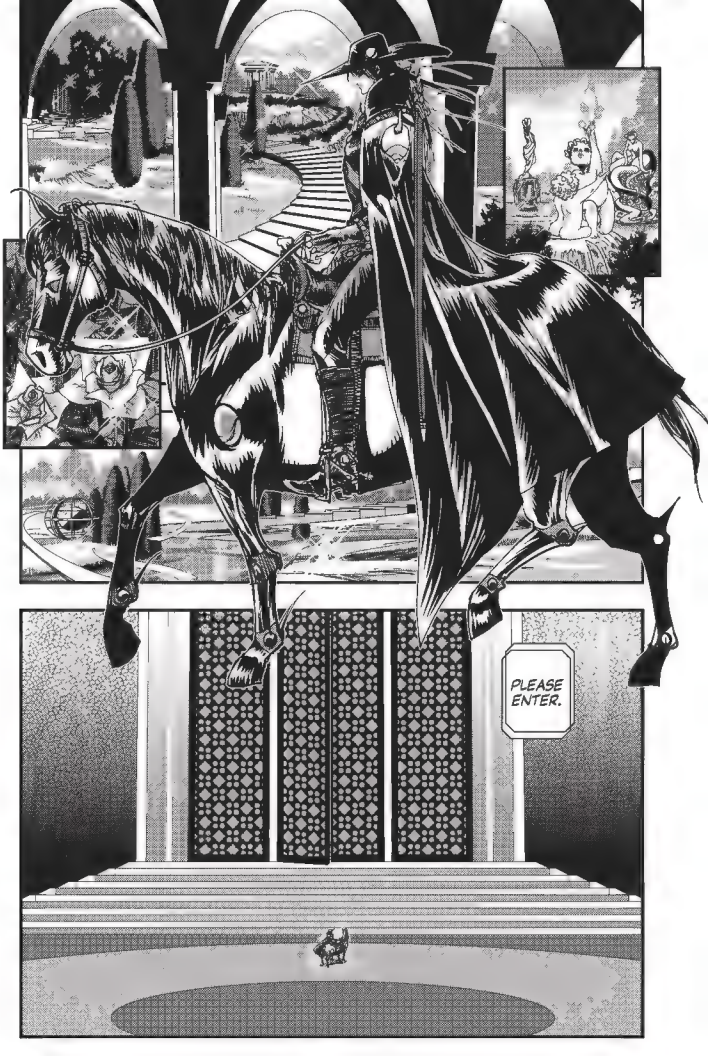
ゴオオオオ
VWSSSHHHH


ヒュオオオ
WHOOOOOOSH
オオオ
HMHM


...
...

WE HUMBLY WELCOME YOUR ARRIVAL...
...TO THE LORD'S CASTLE.
KLAK
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE


ズズズ…
KOSOHHH
DIRECTIONS ARE BEING TRANSMITTED TO YOUR HORSE'S NAVIGATIONAL SYSTEM.
KTOK KTOK KTOK
PLEASE PARDON THE ABSENCE OF AN ESCORT TO GUIDE YOU IN.


PLEASE ENTER.

KREE
TMP
MEOW!
CLICK
DASH!

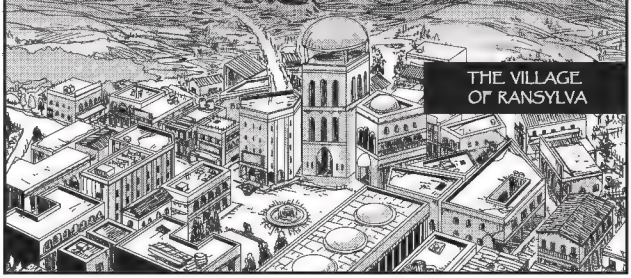
TIME-BEWITCHING INCENSE?
TIME-BEWITCHING INCENSE-
A CHEMICAL CREATION. BORN OF THE VAMPIRE'S PHYSIOLOGICAL NEEDS.
SNEER
ITS SCENT CHANGES DAY TO NIGHT, ALLOWING THE NOBILITY TO FUNCTION EVEN DURING THE DAYLIGHT HOURS.
DUE TO EXTREME DIFFICULTY FINDING AND MIXING ITS INGREDIENTS, IT IS A RARITY EVEN AMONGST NOBLES.
I AM D-
VAMPIRE HUNTER.
DID YOU INTEND TO SIMPLY WALTZ IN EXPECTING US TO BE ASLEEP?
WHAT A FOOL.
ARE YOU COUNT MAGNUS LEE, THE ONE WHO ATTACKED THE GIRL OF THAT FARM?
IF SO, THEN I SHALL SLAY YOU NOW.
NO, FATHER. THIS MAN CLEARLY CAME WITH NO SUCH EXPEC-TATION.

SLAY ME?
THAT'S QUITE A BOAST FOR A TRAITOROUS DHAMPIR.
TELL ME, RUNT. ARE YOU HUMAN? OR VAMPIRE?
PLEASE, FATHER. ALLOW ME TO SPEAK TO HIM.
THE BASTARD SPAWN OF THE UNION BETWEEN OUR KIND AND A LOWLY HUMAN.
PLEASE EXCUSE MY FATHER'S HARSH TONE.
I HAVE SPOKEN HIGHLY OF YOU.
...
SWISH
WHAT SAY YOU?
WHY NOT APOLOGIZE TO MY FATHER FOR YOUR BRASH WORDS AND STAY IN THE CASTLE WITH US?
WHAT HUMAN DESERVES YOUR LOYALTY?
THE VERY HUMANS WHO OWE YOU THEIR THANKS GIVE YOU NOTHING BUT...
!!AH!!
YOU FOOL !!
!
JUMP!
YOU'VE SWORN TO PROTECT THEM AND IN TURN YOU ARE MET WITH NOTHING BUT THEIR SCORN.
THE SAME PROUD AND NOBLE BLOOD AS OURS FLOWS WITHIN YOU.
HAVE YOU NOTHING ELSE TO SAY?

WE'RE ALL...
BUT TRAN-SIENT GUESTS.
SNAP
SILENCE
?!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TRICKERY YOU MEAN TO USE...
BUT THE NOBILITY'S DEVICES HAVE NO EFFECT ON ME.
!

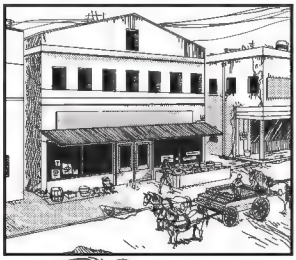
?!
CLASP
WELL, TRAITOR ...?
CAN YOU SEE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN YOUR CRUDE SWORDSMANSHIP AND THE POWER OF THE NOBILITY?
TELL THE FOOLS IN THE NEXT WORLD HOW SURPRISED YOU WERE!
STRUGGLE

GRIND
GRIND
A PRIMITIVE CONTRAPTION.
I SEE YOU HAD IT CONSTRUCTED ANYWAY.
GRIND
CHUGGA-
FATHER?
GACHUNK
CLASH
GATHUNK
GRIND
GRIND
GRIND
GRIND
FWOOOOOSH


THE VILLAGE OF RANSYLVA

THAT'S IT? YOU SURE THIS IS ENOUGH FERTI-LIZER?

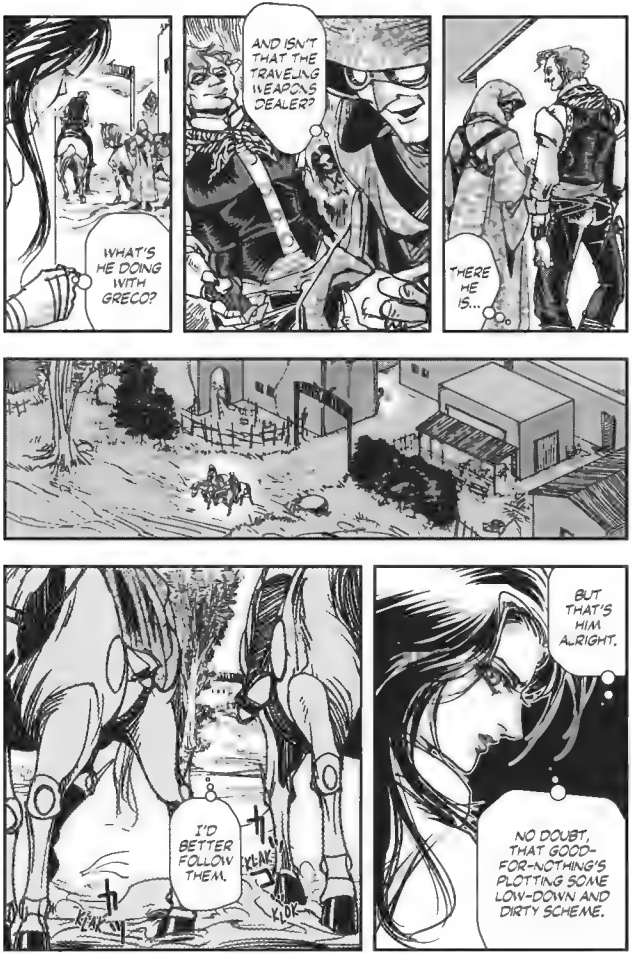
HERE'S THE LAST OF IT.



HEARD YOU BEEN BIT...
THIS MUST BE GRECO'S DOING.

IT'LL BE FINE.
I'LL CHECK A FEW MORE PLACES.
OH, THESE ...?
WE'RE ALL SOLD OUT...
WE AIN'T GOT A SHIPMENT IN YET.
THEY ALL BEEN RESERVED, YA SEE...

I HAVE TO GO MEET WITH DOC FERRINGO ABOUT SOME-THING.
YOU TAKE THE CART AND HEAD ON HOME.
WHAT? BUT...
SMILE
DAN.
YEAH ?
BE CAREFUL GOING HOME.
YOU BET!
OKAY, I'LL GO.
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO LISTEN TO WHAT YOUR SISTER SAYS?
AT THIS TIME OF DAY, HE'S EITHER AT THE BLACK LAGOON OR THE PANDORA HOTEL.
WHEN I FIND THAT GRECO, I'M GONNA GIVE HIM A TASTE OF MY WHIP!


WHAT'S HE DOING WITH GRECO?
AND ISN'T THAT THE TRAVELING WEAPONS DEALER?
THERE HE IS...
I'D BETTER FOLLOW THEM.
KLANK
KLANK
KLANK
BUT THAT'S HIM ALRIGHT.
NO DOUBT, THAT GOOD-FOR-NOTHING'S PLOTTING SOME LOW-DOWN AND DIRTY SCHEME.

BLUP
DRIP
BLOOP
ZLORSH
ZORSH

SWOSHHH
SLIP
にい
SMILE
GRABBB
HAHAHAHA

AH. BY THE LOOKS OF IT, YOU MUST BE...
THE MIDWITCH MEDUSAS.
FINALLY, SOME FRESH PREY.
ススススススススス

SWIRL
UNABLE TO MOVE, VAGRANT?
WE CAN SENSE THAT YOU DESIRE US.
SO YOU KNOW OF US, THEN?
OHH...
AND NOT ONLY HIS FACE, BUT HIS SUPERB PHYSIQUE AS WELL...
HE'S SO HANDSOME, SISTER.
HIS LIFE ENERGY MUST TASTE EXQUISITE.
ONCE BOUND BY THE SPELL OF OUR HAIR, YOU CANNOT ESCAPE.
CREEP
CREEP
...UNLIKE ANYTHING OF THIS WORLD.
...WILL LET YOU EXPERIENCE ECSTACY...
MWA-HA-HA... THE THREE OF US...

AHH
あ
あ
AAH
あ
あ
AHHH
あ
あ
AAAHHHH
SO MANLY!
SUCH LUSH LIPS...
AHH, SUCH A BEAUTIFUL SPECIMEN ...
...
TURN
HAH
SWISH
...BEAR YOUR NECKS.
GRAAHH

WE'VE GOT YOU AT LAST—
WE'RE THE FRONTIER DEFENSE FORCE—DISPATCHED BY THE CITY.
FIEND CORPS !!
"GOT US"? THAT'S FUNNY ...
HA HA HA
YOU SEE, IT CAME TO OUR ATTENTION THAT YOU'VE BEEN POSTING WANTED SIGNS IN THE AREA IN THE HOPES OF FINDING US—SO WE DECIDED TO FIND YOU.
AND NOW THAT YOU'VE FINALLY ARRIVED, IF ANY-THING, WE'VE GOT YOU.

WAVE
KCHAK
I'LL HAVE THE FOUR OF YOU COME QUIETLY!
SILENCE!
THROW DOWN YOUR WEAPONS SLOWLY. SURRENDER NOW AND I'LL SPARE YOU YOUR LIVES.
KCHIK
FWOOM
HOW NICE OF YOU.
WE'RE THE FRONTIER DEFENSE FORCE, YOU HEAR?!
SHOCK
?!
THERE ARE MORE THAN JUST FOUR OF US.
BUT I'M AFRAID YOU'VE MADE A BIT OF A MISTAKE.
WHAT ?!
BWOOSH
SHHHH

うわぁぁぁ
WAAHHHHH
WHAT WAS GRECO SAYING ...?
SOMETHING ABOUT "THE DEVIL'S QUARRY" ...?
I LOST THEM...
HM?

HEY! YOU THERE!
SPIRIT BEASTS? SHE HAS A BARRIER UP...
WHY'S SHE USING DARK MAGIC WAY OUT HERE...?
AHH!
VWISH
VWISH
VWIP
THINK YOU CAN SCARE ME?!
SHRIEEEK
JUMP
SPRR
KICK

PWSSHH!
TOO EASY!
?!
TWITCH
ゼュッ!
FSSK
CRACK
ギギ
あああああ
BLAAAAG
ゲェェェ

KI-BLAM!
SHIT!

I EXPECTED MORE FROM YOU.
NNG ...

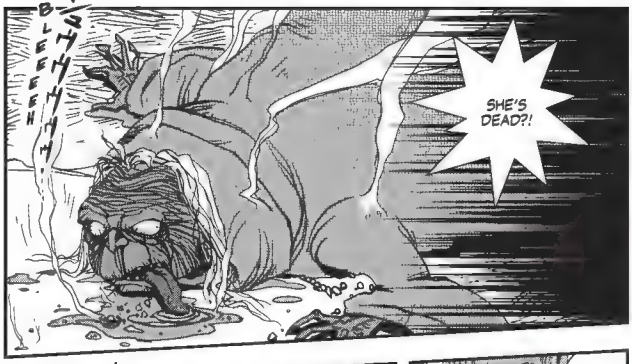
IS THIS ALL THE FRONTIER DEFENSE FORCE HAS TO OFFER?
WHAT'S WRONG?

!
SHUNK

?!
SPLUTT

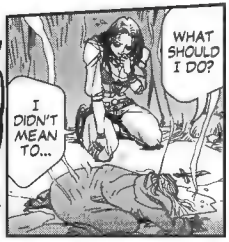
SIZZLE
SIZZLE
ARE YOU HURT, BOSS?
I'M QUITE FINE. AS FOR THE BODIES...
BOIL THEM, BURN THEM, EAT THEM— JUST DISPOSE OF THEM.
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE WITCH ...?
THIS IS AMAZING!

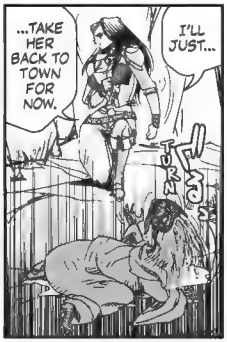
IT'S A SUPER-HARD STEEL SUIT OF ARMOR MADE WITH SPECIAL PSUEDO-STRENGTH-ENING ELECTRO-SENSORS.
IT LOOKS VERY NICE ON YOU.
KRRRIIIK
WITH THAT ON YOU'LL BE THREE TIMES AS FAST, AND TEN TIMES AS STRONG!
YOU SERI-OUS?♪
KRRACK
CRUMBLE
...
...
SMIRK
I LIKE IT!


BLEEEEH
SHE'S DEAD?!

FWSSSSHHHHH

LUNGE
OHH, BUT...
HOW WILL I EXPLAIN THIS?


WHAT SHOULD I DO?
I DIDN'T MEAN TO...


I'LL JUST...
...TAKE HER BACK TO TOWN FOR NOW.
TURN

!
ROLL
ROLL
THUD
PWSSHH
CHINK
?!
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT WOMAN WAS POSSESSED!
SSSS
NOT AT ALL.
YOU SAVED ME THERE. I OWE YOU.
WHAT WAS THAT WEAPON?
...
...
SPLATCH
ARE YOU HURT, MY FAIR LADY?

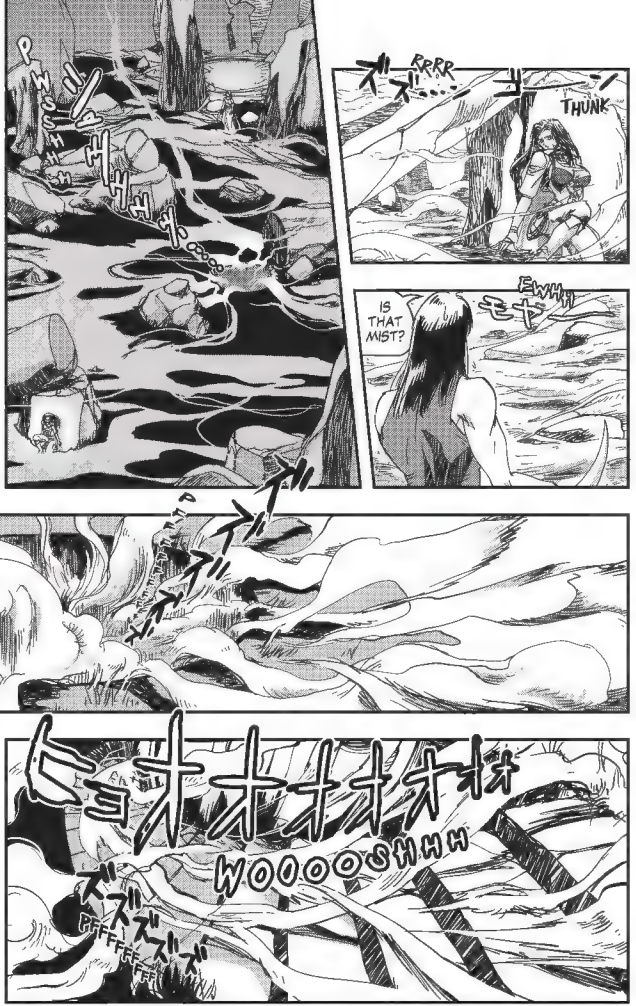
HAVE... SOMEWHERE I NEED TO BE...
I'LL GO EXPLAIN WHEN THINGS SETTLE DOWN.
IN THAT CASE, COULD I TROUBLE YOU TO TAKE THAT OLD WOMAN'S BODY INTO TOWN?
I'M HAPPY TO.
...OF SORTS, YES.
WHAT BRINGS YOU WAY OUT HERE?
OUT FOR A RIDE?
WHAT ARE YOU-
?!
SLIP
I'LL DEAL WITH BOTH BODIES IN DUE TIME...
BUT FIRST, YOU OWE ME SOMETHING FOR MY EFFORTS.
BOTH ?
!!
ROPE
I SLAYED THE FIFTH MEMBER OF MY TEAM TO SAVE YOU—WHY?
BE-CAUSE YOU'RE BEAUTI-FUL.
HEH HEH HEH

...MY SWEET LITTLE PET.
HMPH. THERE'S NO USE RUNNING ...
FLING
LEAP!
YOU MUST BE JOKING!
I ALREADY HAVE EYES FOR SOMEONE!
THRUST
GATOK GATOK GATOK GATOK
DASH
GATOK GATOK GATOK GATOK
TURN
FWISH FWISH FWISH FWISH

!!
SHRIEK
FLIP
FLIP
FLIP
FLIP
SPLUD
SSSLIDE

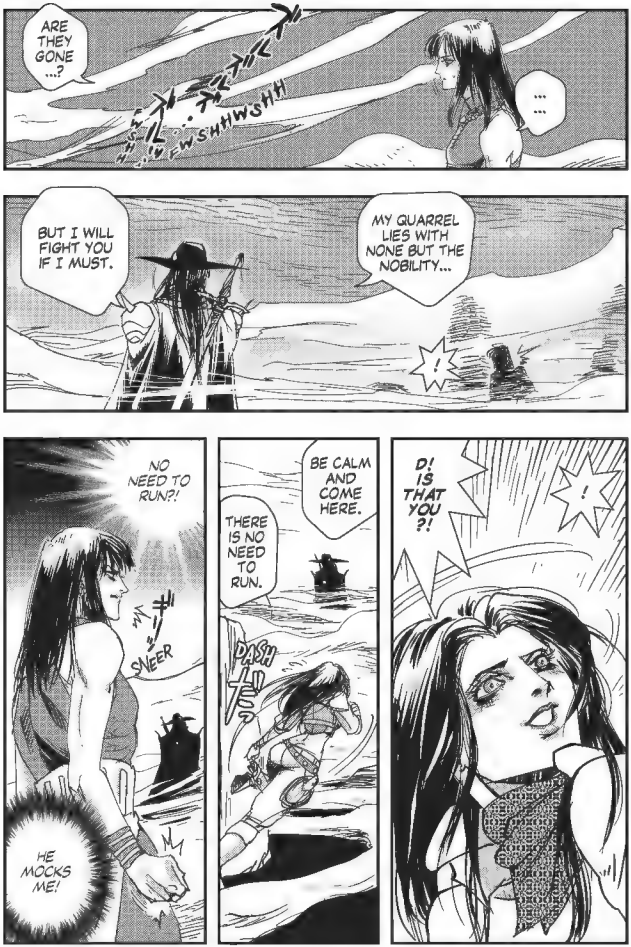
SNATCH
WELL DONE.
NOW IT'S TIME ...
...TO DRIVE THE RABBIT FROM ITS HOLE.
SING
WISSHH
SHUNK
SKRRR...
CRUMBLE
CRUMBLE
SHUNK
NO!

LEAN
HM?
ゴゴゴゴゴ
KRRASSSHHHH
VOOOOOM
WHOOOH!!
FWABOOM
GAH!
KRUNCHHH


RRRR
THUNK
IS THAT MIST?
ELVHH
WOOOOSHHH

THIS IS OUTSIDE?
IT'S SO COLD...
WE MUST FEED...
IT'S FREEZING— I MUCH PREFER BEING BELOW.
YES! THERE'S A HANDSOME MORSEL JUST OVER THERE.
SLIDE
SLITHER
SLITHER

RETURN BELOW.
YOU'VE SERVED YOUR PURPOSE.
SIED
TWO OF THEM!
?!
WHA- WHAT'S THIS STRANGE PRESENCE ?!
SHIN
BE-GONE!
FU WHEW
...SUC-CULENT PREY...
BUT... THERE'S SUCH JUICY...
ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT ME?!
SUCCU-LENT?!
...
...
WE MUST FOLLOW ORDERS, SISTERS.
YES, THOUGH IT PAINS US TO GO.
OH, FAIR ONE!
INDEED! WHEN WILL YOU COME TO SEE US NEXT?


ARE THEY GONE ...?
FWSHHWSHH
...
...
BUT I WILL FIGHT YOU IF I MUST.
MY QUARREL LIES WITH NONE BUT THE NOBILITY...
!
NO NEED TO RUN?!
SNEER
HE MOCKS ME!
BE CALM AND COME HERE.
THERE IS NO NEED TO RUN.
DASH
D! IS THAT YOU?!
!

SWOOSHHH
SWOHHH
ARE YOU THE ONE THEY CALL D?
AT LEAST GIVE ME YOUR NAME!
I AM REI-GINSEI ...
WAIT!
THIS FRIGHTENINGLY UNSETTLED AURA...!
WHY ...?
SHIT!
WAIT...
WHY CAN'T I MOVE?!
...
...
?
SPLUT
SPLUT
SPLUT
DRIP
THAT BAS-TARD...

HE SAID TO LEAVE YOU, BUT...
MONSTER!!
WHAT HARM IS THERE IN SNEAKING A SMALL SNACK?
HE DOES LOOK SO DELICIOUS ...
HE HE HE
KAAAAAAA

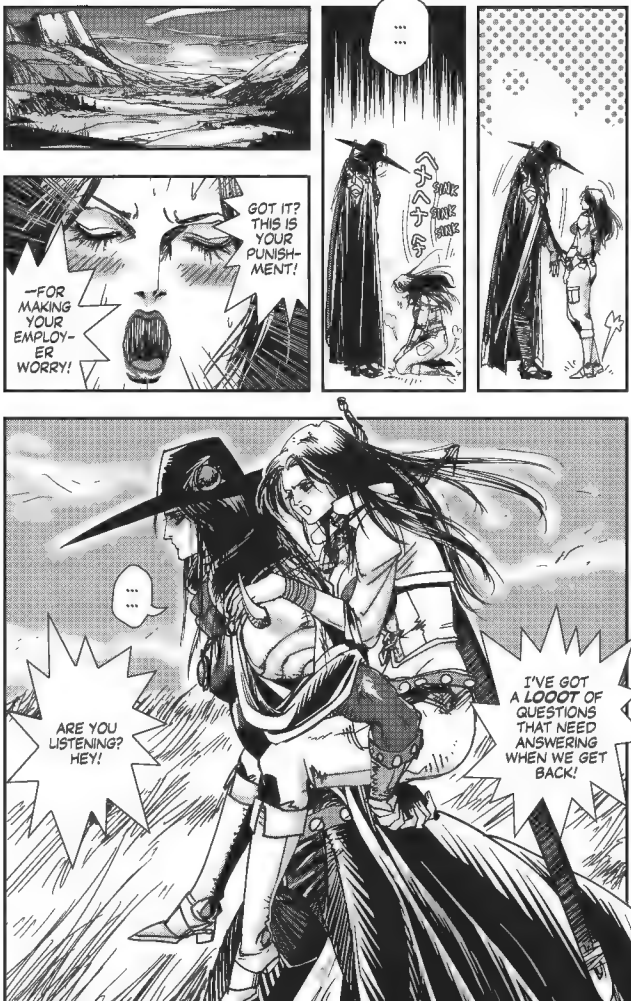
BZZZT
BZZ
?!
KSSSHHHH
TWITCH
TWITCH
AHH, THAT WAS ROUGH.
TWITCH
NNNG.
SIZZLE
....
HM?
GOOD JOB, ARMOR.
...WOULDA BEEN IF I WEREN'T WEARIN' THIS.
PAT
THOUGHT I WAS DEAD!

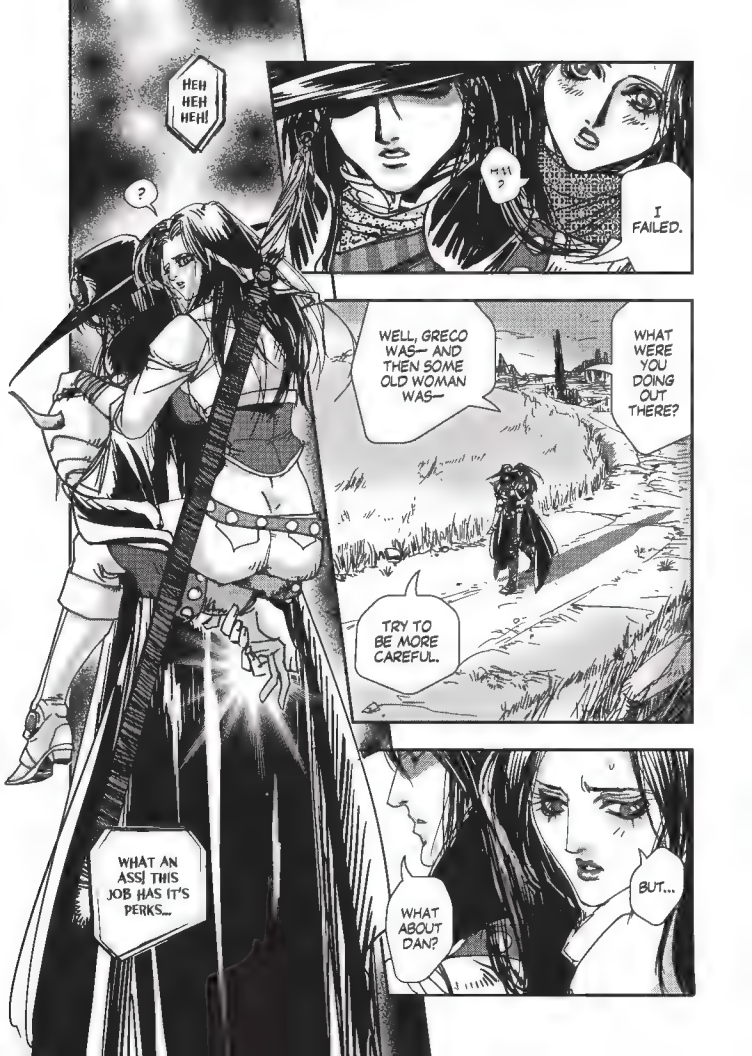
THEY ENJOYED THE COUNT'S GOOD CARE FOR SO LONG, AND YET...
BEEP
BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP
STEP
THOSE TRAITORS ...
WOLF ...
NO... A WERE-WOLF ...?
YOU HU-MANS ...
YOU SEEM LIKE YOU MAY BE OF SOME USE...

TREAD
TREAD

HACK
HACK
GULP

!!
SINK
SINK
WE'RE SAFE NOW.
SLUMP
OUCH... MY LEGS...
KRIIIIIIIIIKRIK
LIFT
HUH?
WHAT'RE YOU...?
P- PUT ME DOWN!!


GOT IT? THIS IS YOUR PUNISH-MENT!
—FOR MAKING YOUR EMPLOY-ER WORRY!
…
…
ヘナヘナ
SINK
SINK
SINK
…
…
ARE YOU LISTENING? HEY!
I'VE GOT A LOOOT OF QUESTIONS THAT NEED ANSWERING WHEN WE GET BACK!


I FAILED.
HM?
?
HEH HEH HEH!
WHAT WERE YOU DOING OUT THERE?
WELL, GRECO WAS— AND THEN SOME OLD WOMAN WAS—
TRY TO BE MORE CAREFUL.
BUT...
WHAT ABOUT DAN?
WHAT AN ASS! THIS JOB HAS IT'S PERKS...

AWOOOOOOOOO
Dr.Ferringo
HMM,
AS I
THOUGHT
...
AWOOOOOSSHHH

SORRY, BUT I ONLY TEND TO HUMANS.
YOU NEED TO SEE A DOCTOR THIS LATE AT NIGHT?
TUMM
HA HA HA, YOUR BRASH COURAGE IS AS PATHETIC AS YOU ARE SENILE.
DOCTOR FERRINGO, I PRESUME.
A NOBLE ?!

NOBLES ARE NOT MY SPECIALITY, BUT SOME OF MY EXPERIENCE SHOULD STILL SERVE WELL.
I WAS A WERE-SPIDER HUNTER WHEN I WAS YOUNG. I'VE STILL GOT SOME FIGHT IN ME YET!
THIS LOG CONTAINS THE WEAKNESSES OF THE VAMPIRES!
DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS IS?
IN THIS, IS THE RECOUNT OF THOSE WHO HAVE SPILLED GALLONS OF BLOOD TO OBTAIN SUCH KNOWLEDGE!
THIS IS A COLLECTION OF ENTRIES FROM HUNTERS OF WAYS TO REPEL THE LIKES OF YOU NOBLES!

MUA HA HA! THAT THOUGHT WILL BE INSTANTLY LOST FOR-EVER.
EVEN IF THEY WORK, THE MOMENT YOU KNOW IT AS TRUE...
SO IT'S TRUE... MEMORY MANIPU-LATION...

HAVE YOU TRIED TO SPREAD THAT KNOWLEDGE?
NO ONE WILL BELIEVE YOU.
WEAK-NESSES?
PITI-FUL!

TAKE THIS !!
FWOOM
?!

KLINK
WELL I WON'T GIVE IN SO EASILY!

!
WHAT'S THIS ...?!

BLAGHH
GAAAH!
I MAY LOSE MY MEMORY OF THAT...
SHAKE
SHAKE
BUT IT WON'T MATTER, BECAUSE I'LL FINISH YOU HERE AND NOW!
THAT'S GARLIC POWDER!
VAM-PIRES CAN'T STAND IT!
FWOOOOSH
KLOOM
BWSSHHH!
NNG!

PREPARE TO FEEL THE POWER OF THE NOBILITY!
DON'T FLATTER YOURSELF, OLD MAN.
?!
SHOVE
STRUGGLE
STRUGGLE
AH!
GUH!
GAAAHHHH

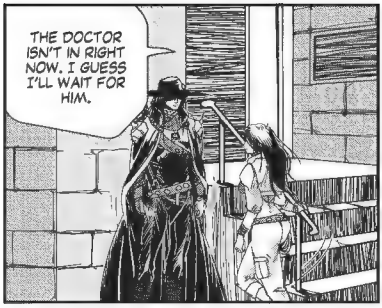
AAHHHHHHH!!
SLINK
BLOOSH
THUD
FWHUM
?!
...
...
HE FLED ...?
WHAT'S THAT SMELL?
WHAT EXACTLY HAPPENED HERE?
?

TAK TAKK
TAKK TAKK
YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO ANY OF THAT...
I'M ALMOST DONE.
TAKK
SHOCK
D?
WH- WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

I WONDER IF HE WENT OUT HUNTING ...?
DAAAN!
DAN?
THAT DAN!
MAKING D DO THE EVERYDAY CHORES LIKE THAT! I CAN'T BELIEVE HIM!
I'M GOING TO CHECK THE FARM'S PERIMETER.
...
...
THAT'S DAN'S GUN!!
!
D!
KTOK-KTOK KTOKOK
DAN'S BEEN KID-NAPPED!
!
RRR
BARN

DON'T TELL ME THE DOCTOR WAS—!
THE DOCTOR ISN'T HERE?!
HIS NOTE SAID HE'D BE BACK BY NOON.
FIDGET
WE RECEIVED WORD THAT THERE WAS AN EMERGENCY AT HARKER LANE'S HOUSE, SO HE WENT OUT TO HELP.

OR CAN YOU JUST NOT STAND TO SEE HER IN DISTRESS?
IS YOUR CONCERN FOR THE BOY MAKING YOU RESTLESS?
BIT OF A SOFTY FOR A DHAMPIR, AREN'T YOU?
WHAT'S WRONG?
WHY NOT KEEP HER CLOSE?
IS THAT WHAT YOU THINK?
OR MAYBE YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH THE GIRL?
NO,
I KNOW SOMEONE LIKE YOU HAS MORE SENSE THAN THAT.
I LOVE THAT THEY CALL YOU D.
AND YOU'VE GOT HIS BLOOD IN YOU.


THE DOCTOR ISN'T IN RIGHT NOW. I GUESS I'LL WAIT FOR HIM.

SILENCE !!
D?
CLENCH

...
...

I'LL BRING DAN BACK SAFE AND SOUND.
THANKS... I'M COUNTING ON YOU.

DON'T FORGET YOUR BODY-GUARD.

I HAVE THE BOY.
D MUST COME ALONE TO THE AREA NEAR THE OLD RUINS WHERE WE LAST MET.
THIS IS A SIMPLE TEST OF SKILL BETWEEN WARRIORS TO ASCERTAIN SUPERIORITY. BRING NOT YOUR MALICE, NOR ANY OBSERVERS. MENTION THIS TO NO ONE OR ELSE...
—REI-GINSEI
AND HE'S ALONE?
AS PROM-ISED.
THEN WE'LL PROCEED AS PLANNED.
LOOK. YOUR SAVIOR HAS ARRIVED.
MY PLAN TO LURE HIM AWAY FROM THAT GIRL WORKED WONDER-FULLY.
HE'S HERE.

BOSS!
?
YES, THAT'S MUCH BETTER.
KEEP QUIET NOW.
UGHMMM
THAT'S IT.
D'S STRONGER THAN YOU CAN EVEN IMAGINE! YOU'RE THE ONES THAT WON'T MAKE IT OUT ALIVE!
WHAT A PITY...
...THAT NEITHER OF YOU ARE FATED TO RETURN ALIVE.
HE'S A...
I'M SURPRISED TO MEET THE CHILD OF A DEMON AND A DOG.
THIS IS QUITE A SURPRISE ...
TO THINK I WOULD INVITE THE RUNT OF A HUMAN AND THE NOBILITY!

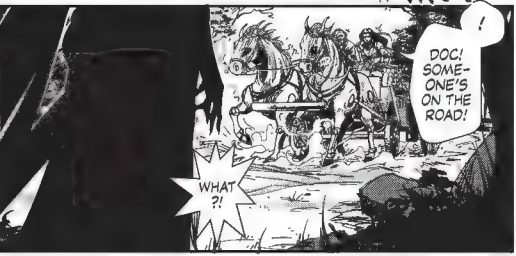
DAN ...
GIVE ME ONE MINUTE.
NOD NOD
LET THE BOY GO.
OH, I'LL GIVE YOU THE BOY ONCE THIS IS FINISHED.
THIS IS NOTHING BUT A SIMPLE TEST OF SKILL AFTER ALL.
TWITCH
GOLEM !!
SHALL WE SHOW HIM OUR TALENTS?
WE ARE FOUR. CAN YOU REALLY DEFEAT EACH OF US IN FIFTEEN SECONDS?

SNAP
DORIS!
BRUSH
HIS HAND... SO COLD ...
I'LL TAKE YOU SOME-WHERE SAFE.
COME.
I GUESS I DOZED OFF...
DOCTOR?
WERE YOU ASLEEP?
KLOK
KLOK
KLOK
KLOK
KLOK

CHIK CHIK CHIK
KTOK KTOK KTOK
ACCORDING TO ONE OF THE OLD BOOKS IN MY LIBRARY, THERE'S A CAVE THAT'S A SAFE-HAVEN FROM VAMPIRES.
SAFE-HAVEN?
A SAFE-HAVEN.
WHERE ARE WE GOING?
IT'S NOT SAFE AT NIGHT ...

IT WAS WRITTEN IN A VERY OLD BOOK. I EXPECT MOST PEOPLE DON'T KNOW ABOUT IT.
SUCH A PLACE ACTUALLY EXISTS ...?

WE'RE ALMOST THERE!
THE NORTH FOREST!
GACHAK GACHAK GACHAK GACHAK GACHAK


DOC! SOME-ONE'S ON THE ROAD!
!
WHAT ?!

I TOOK A GOOD LOOK AT IT ON MY WAY BACK FROM HARKER'S PLACE...
...AND I FOUND IT NEAR THE RUINS DEEP IN THE NORTH FOREST.

SHE'S ONE OF THE NOBILITY !!
!
THAT'S STRANGE... SHE WASN'T SUPPOSED TO BE...
DOC FERRINGO! WE SHOULD RUN!
DOC-TOR ?!
YANK
HMM!
FWSH
SMACK

"HA" WAS ME... UNTIL LAST NIGHT!
GHAAA
BAM
AH...

GRRROOOOHHHH
おおおおっ
SWISH
...
...
CHINK
HAH HAH HAH!
IT'S NO USE!

COME ON! COME ON!
KA
BAM
GAHA
...ARE MADE OF BRONZE !!
THESE MUSCLES ...
HAHAHAHAHA
CHINK
CHINK
EVEN HIGH FREQUENCY WEAPONS HAVE NO EFFECT!
RRRGH

YOUR FIFTEEN SECONDS IS ALMOST UP!
WHAT'S WRONG? COME AT ME!
GAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA
SHINK
?!

WH-
TMP
SPLOSHHH
B-WOOSH

NO. ALLOW ME.
I'LL GO N—
GIMLET.
DASH
THHUDDD
TSH
TSH
TSH
TSH

AMAZ-ING, ISN'T IT, BOY?
GIMLET MOVES FASTER THAN THE HUMAN EYE.
I WONDER IF A DHAMPIR CAN KEEP UP WITH SUCH SPEED...
TAP
SWISH
DASH
KTMP
SMIRK
COME AFTER ME!
FWSH
FWSH
THREE SECONDS LEFT!
KSHH
RRRRT
KSSHHH

HOW DID ...?
?!
CHULLAH...
IT'S YOUR TURN.
UH ...

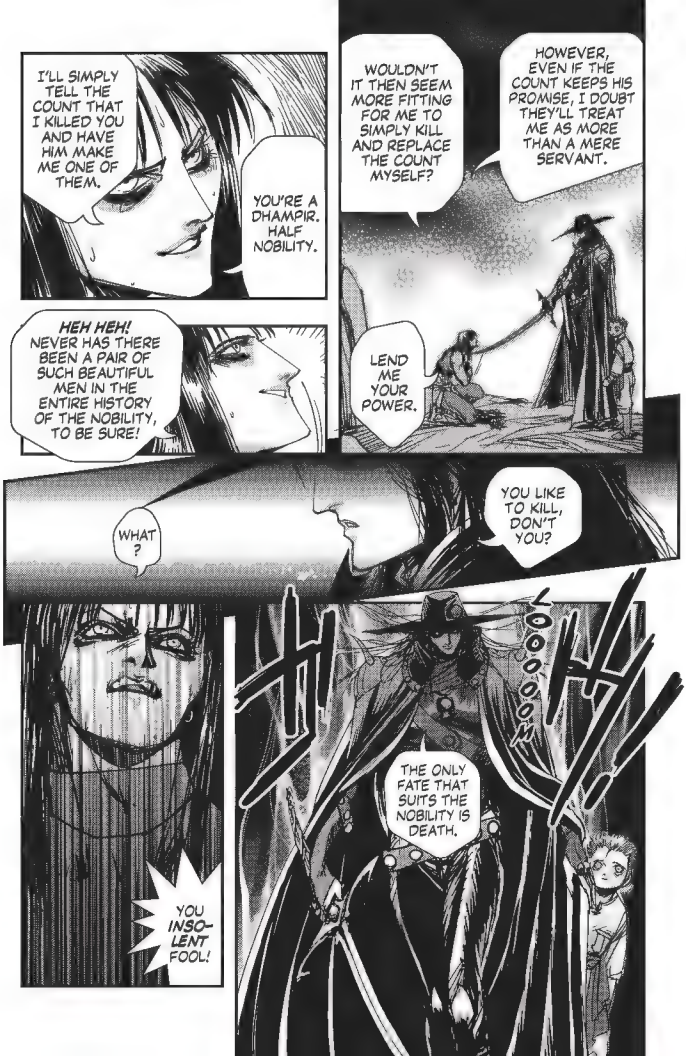
WOOOHHHH
うおおおお
KREEEE
RAISE

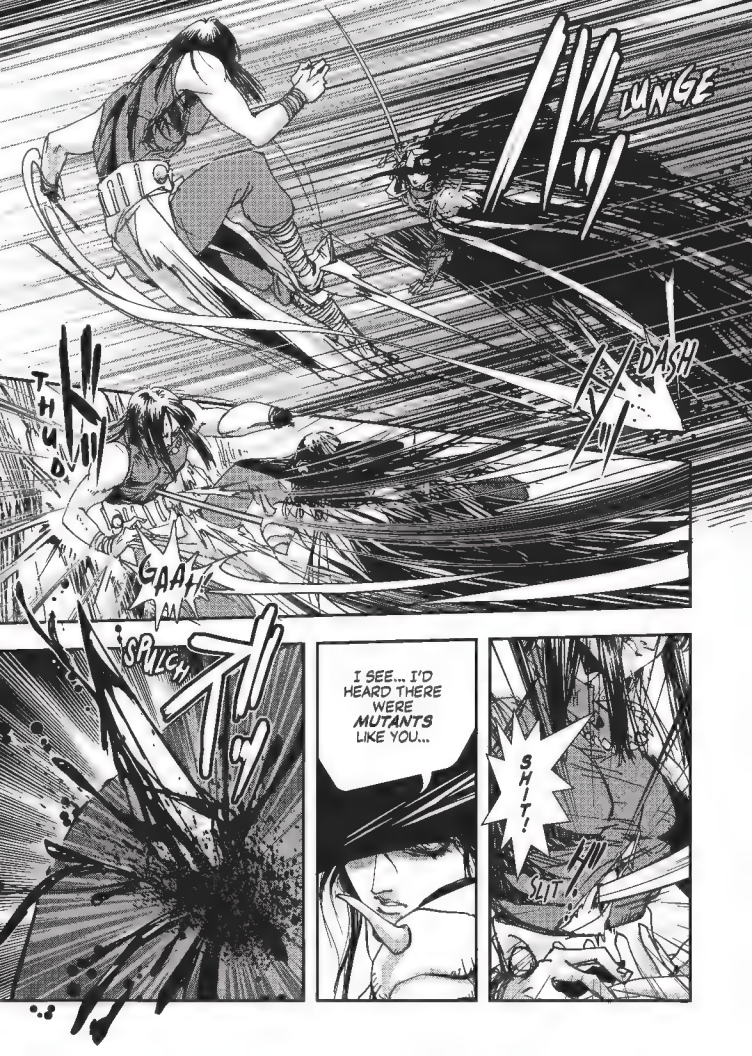
FOOOOOM
GLENCH
?!

LUNGE
FORTY-THREE SECONDS IN ALL.
SUPERB!
DASH!
OHHH
PATIENCE, MY FRIEND.
AH
RARD
HO HO!
SWISH
LEAP
THE GIRL'S LIFE IS AT STAKE!
WAIT!

FOOL! I MEAN THIS!
THRUST
!!
...
...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
?!
WHY WON'T IT LIGHT ?!
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHING
HNNG!
SQUISH
SPLUSH
SPLUSH
GAAH!

COUNT MAGNUS IS BEHIND THIS, THEN?
TIME BEWITCHING INCENSE?
NOW, NOW!
WHAT DO YOU THINK WILL HAPPEN TO THE GIRL IF YOU SLAY ME?
YES, HE IS.
BUT I WAS GIVEN A FAKE, IT SEEMS.
YOU JUST CAN'T TRUST THE NOBILITY, CAN YOU?
LET'S STRIKE A DEAL, SHALL WE?
JOIN ME AND OVERTHROW THE NOBLES.
THE COUNT AND I HAVE MADE AN AGREEMENT. THOUGH, I SUPPOSE I'VE ENDED UP MORE HIS TOOL.
IF I KILL YOU, AND THE COUNT IS ABLE TO TAKE THE GIRL, HE WILL INDUCT ME INTO THE NOBILITY.
NICK
TALK.


I'LL SIMPLY TELL THE COUNT THAT I KILLED YOU AND HAVE HIM MAKE ME ONE OF THEM.
YOU'RE A DHAMPIR. HALF NOBILITY.
WOULDN'T IT THEN SEEM MORE FITTING FOR ME TO SIMPLY KILL AND REPLACE THE COUNT MYSELF?
HOWEVER, EVEN IF THE COUNT KEEPS HIS PROMISE, I DOUBT THEY'LL TREAT ME AS MORE THAN A MERE SERVANT.
LEND ME YOUR POWER.
HEH HEH! NEVER HAS THERE BEEN A PAIR OF SUCH BEAUTIFUL MEN IN THE ENTIRE HISTORY OF THE NOBILITY, TO BE SURE!
YOU LIKE TO KILL, DON'T YOU?
WHAT ?
LOOOOOOM
THE ONLY FATE THAT SUITS THE NOBILITY IS DEATH.
YOU INSO-LENT FOOL!


LUNGE
DASH
THUD
GAAH!
SPLICH
I SEE... I'D HEARD THERE WERE MUTANTS LIKE YOU...
SHIT!
SLIT!

PLUSHHH !!
WHERE IS DORIS? WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING?
SPEAK, OR YOUR FACE IS NEXT.
A DHAMPIR WON'T DIE FROM JUST A WOUND TO THE STOMACH.
I EVEN LET YOU AIM FOR MY HEART.
YOU'RE A DIMENSION-TWISTER.
VWA VWA VWA
THE NORTH FOREST ...
AT THE ENTRANCE WITH SOME DOCTOR...

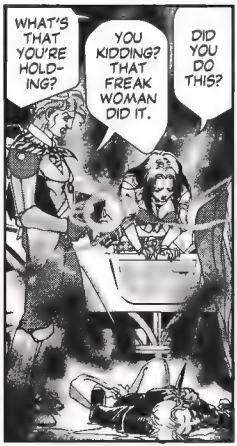
THE DOCTOR SEEMS TO HAVE CHANGED PROFESSIONS, HOWEVER. AS OF LAST NIGHT HE IS NOW A SERVANT TO THE COUNT.
WHAT?!
KICK
TMP
TAP
I'LL SEE TO IT YOU PAY FOR MY LEFT HAND!
FWSH
D! ARE YOU OKAY?
Y- YOU'RE BLEED-ING!

LADY LARMICA, I PRESUME.
I AM HONORED THAT YOU WOULD PRAISE ME.
WELL DONE.
QUITE FETCHING FOR A HUMAN, ISN'T SHE?
SHE IS.
WHEN I WAS A HUMAN I THOUGHT OF HER AS MY OWN DAUGHTER,
BUT NOW I LOOK AT HER AND WONDER WHY I NEVER LAID MY HANDS ON THAT BEAUTIFUL BODY.
IN FACT, I WAS THINKING I MIGHT ASK THE COUNT IF HE WOULD GRANT ME PERMISSION...
...TO TASTE A FEW DROPS OF HER SWEET BLOOD.
?!
GAAAH
CHUNK

OLD FOOL.
FATHER WILL BE ABSOLUTELY LIVID, BUT I MUST DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS GIRL MYSELF BEFORE THINGS GET OUT OF HAND.
I SIMPLY WILL NOT STAND SUCH VERMIN BECOMING A PART OF THE GLORIOUS LEE FAMILY.
...MUCH LESS AS FATHER'S BRIDE.
THUD
SHING
NOW TO TEAR THIS GIRL TO PIECES.
JOLT

RISE
SNAP
PAAAAAHHHHHPPP
WHAT IN THE WORLD ...?!
CRACK
TWITCH
THUMP
TWITCH
SNICKER
GRECO!
HEYA, DORIS!
STEP

THANKS TO THIS THING, THAT BITCH CAN'T LIFT EVEN A FINGER.
THIS? HEH! THE NOBILITY HAVE CANDLES LIKE THESE THAT TURN DAY INTO NIGHT AND VICE VERSA.


WHAT'S THAT YOU'RE HOLDING?
YOU KIDDING? THAT FREAK WOMAN DID IT.
DID YOU DO THIS?

DOCTOR!

WHAT? WITH HER?
WE SHOULD FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO WITH HER...

DO WE JUST KILL HER? OR USE HER TO BARGAIN WITH THE COUNT?
OF COURSE!

WE CAN TALK ABOUT THAT LATER!
AND WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH IT?!
JUST SHUT UP FOR NOW!
WHY ARE YOU EVEN OUT HERE?
WHY'S THE DOC...

I SHOULD BE ASKING YOU! SHE WAS JUST ABOUT TO KILL YOU!
WHAT DID YOU SAY? ARE YOU SERIOUS?! SHE HASN'T DONE ANYTHING!
BUT I--
KILL ME ...
YOU SHOULD ... KILL ME HERE AND NOW...
THAT HE WOULD FALL FOR SUCH A TRAP...
MY FATHER IS NOT SO FOOL-ISH...
IF YOU DON'T ...
THEN I WILL HUNT DOWN... THE BOTH OF YOU...
STUPID BITCH!
LUNGE
WHOOO!!!
SHE'S UTTERLY DEFENSE-LESS!
STOP IT!
SHOVE

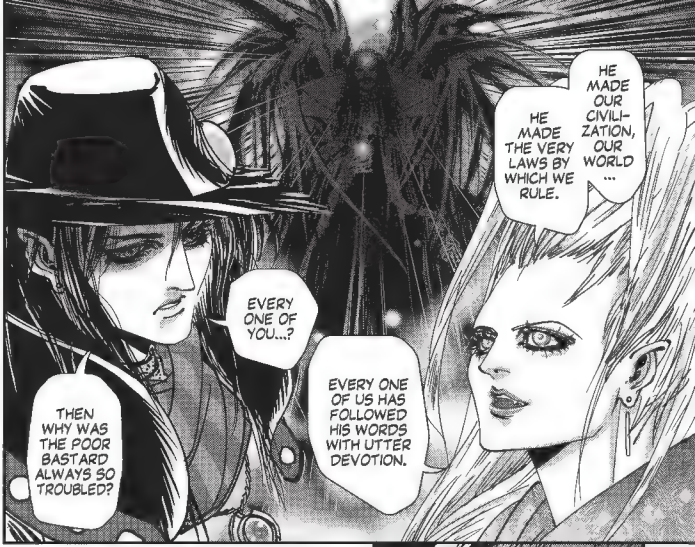
I CRINGE AT THE THOUGHT OF TOUCHING A FILTHY HUMAN,
BUT I SHALL DRAIN THE BLOOD THAT COURSES THROUGH THAT PALE THROAT OF YOURS.
LEAN
I WON'T LET THAT LOW-LIFE DO ANYTHING TO YOU.
DON'T WORRY.
CLAP
CLAP
TSSS
...THE CANDLE!
HOLD IT!
HAAAAAH
?!

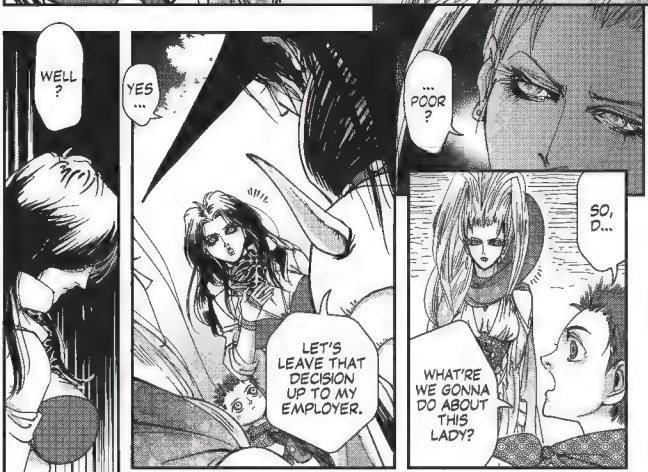
I DON'T TAKE ORDERS FROM THE LIKES OF YOU.
HMPH!
YES, BUT ...
BEEP BEEP
GAROU?
I THOUGHT SOMETHING MIGHT BE AMISS WHEN THE DOCTOR HADN'T SHOWN. IT WOULD SEEM I WAS QUITE RIGHT.
MILADY, HAND OVER THE GIRL.
RUSTLE
—IS RIGHT HERE.
!
D!!
IT SEEMS THIS MAN HAS BEEN LENDING A HAND TO THIS GIRL.
HE HAD TIME-BEWITCHING INCENSE WITH HIM.
DOES THAT NOT IMPLY THAT IT WAS LOST SOME-HOW?
WHAT?! THEN... THAT MEANS THEIR YOUNG BODY-GUARD IS--

STAY STILL OR YOUR HEAD WILL FLY.
TAP
TMP
COOL IT, WOLF. I'LL SHOW HER NO MERCY.
GRRRR...
R-RIGHT!
STUMBLE
STUMBLE
GRECO! GET ON!
KTOK KTOK KTOK
GACHAGACHAGACHA
LET'S GO!
LUNGE!

DAN!
I'M SO GLAD!
C'MON, SIS! DID YA THINK OL' D WOULDN'T COME TO SAVE ME? 'COURSE HE WOULD!
D GOT STABBED BUT HE DOESN'T EVEN SHOW IT!
YOU SHOULDA SEEN HIM, SIS!
YOU WERE INJURED ?!
I-I'LL JUST BE GOING THEN...
!
YOU SHUT UP! YOU'RE THE PRISONER HERE!
...TRAITOR.
HMPH
...
...
?

YOU HAVE THE PROUD BLOOD OF THE NOBILITY IN YOU, YET YOU SERVE THEM OUT OF A SENSE OF DUTY TO HUMANS?
YOU MAKE ME SICK. YOU'LL REGRET THAT YOU ALLOWED ME TO LIVE.
THERE'S NOTHING NOBLE ABOUT YOU!
AND WHAT DOES THE HIGH AND MIGHTY NOBILITY WANT WITH ME ANYWAY?
ARE THEY OUT OF GOOD WOMEN?
HARDLY, BITCH.
WE ARE THE NOBILITY – THE RULING CLASS.
AS SUCH WE ARE ENTITLED TO CERTAIN PRIVI-LEGES.
ONLY THE STRONG SURVIVE— MIGHT MAKES RIGHT—
THAT'S NOT WHAT YOUR SACRED ANCESTOR USED TO SAY.
THE SACRED ANCES-TOR?
THERE'S NO CHANCE A LOWLY CREATURE LIKE YOU COULD KNOW OF HIS SPLENDOR.


HE MADE OUR CIVILI-ZATION, OUR WORLD ...
HE MADE THE VERY LAWS BY WHICH WE RULE.
EVERY ONE OF YOU...?
EVERY ONE OF US HAS FOLLOWED HIS WORDS WITH UTTER DEVOTION.
THEN WHY WAS THE POOR BASTARD ALWAYS SO TROUBLED?


... POOR ?
SO, D...
WHAT'RE WE GONNA DO ABOUT THIS LADY?
YES ...
LET'S LEAVE THAT DECISION UP TO MY EMPLOYER.
WELL ?

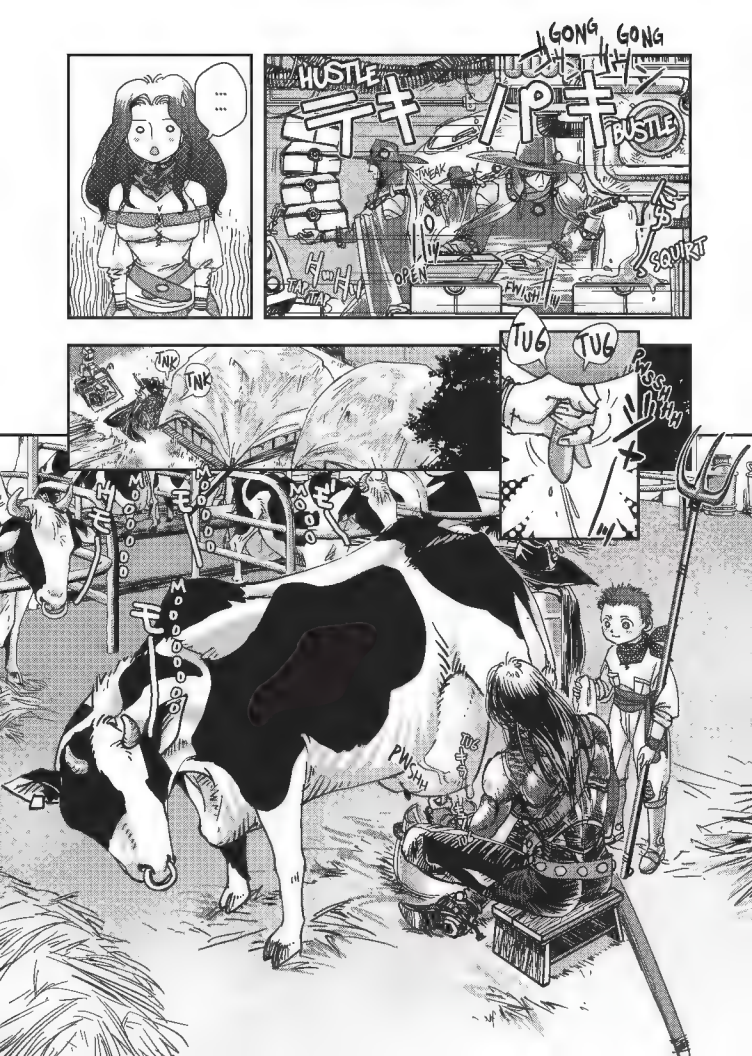
I HATE HER AND ALL THAT HER FAMILY STANDS FOR!
I HATE THEM!!
I HAVE TO KILL HER! IF SHE AND HER FAMILY DIDN'T EXIST...
BUT...
...DAN AND I WOULDN'T HAVE TO SUFFER...
...
...
..

CUT DOWN A HELPLESS GIRL? WHO COULD DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
YEAH!
NOBILITY OR NOT, I JUST DON'T HAVE IT IN ME TO TAKE HER LIFE AWAY...
LET HER GO.

IT'S SETTLED, THEN.
YOU MAY LEAVE.
...
...
GACHA
GACHA
WAIT
...
STOP
...

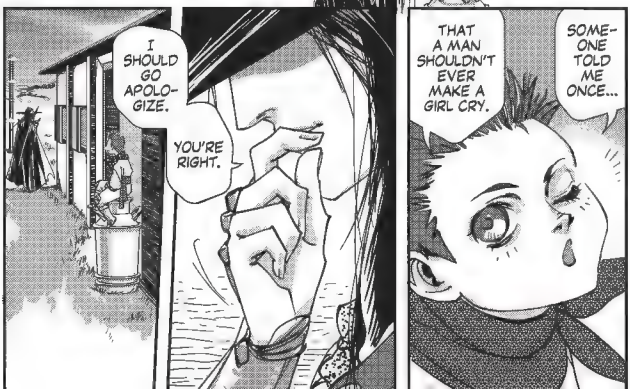
MILORD! COULD HE BE...?
IMPOS-SIBLE... THIS MAN...
THE NEXT DAY
DAN!
GET OVER HERE AND HELP!
OKAAAY!
WHOA!
WHAT ARE YOU WEAR-ING, SIS?

W-WHAT?!
STARE
OHHH!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I'LL GO CHECK THE SENTRIES.
SEETA!
HEY!!
GET BACK HERE! I NEED YOUR HELP WITH--
I'LL HELP.
OH...
SHUFFLE SHUFFLE
HOIST


...
...
GONG
GONG
HUSTLE
テキパキ
BUSTLE
SNEAK
OPEN
FWISH
SQUIRT
HAHAHA
TAP
TAP
TUG
TUG
PWSSHH
TINK
TINK
MOOOOO
MOOOOO
MOOOOO
MOOOOOOOO
PWSSHH
TUG
TUG

WOOOW
VRRRR
MMOOOO
MOOO
SASHI
SASHI
ARE YOU STILL WORKING?
HUH?
MOO
I'M DONE.
STAND
WHAT KIND OF FAMILY IS HE FROM ...?
STARE
LEAVE IT. I'LL CARRY IT.
I'VE GOT IT.
YOUR FACE IS RED. DID YOU CATCH A COLD?
GA THUNK
OH!
N-NO... I'M FINISHED.

I SAW SIS RUN BACK THERE CRYING.
DASH
IT'S NOTHING.
IT MUST BE THE SUN'S REFLECTION...
AH
TEAR
NO,
YOUR SISTER'S JUST VERY WORRIED ABOUT YOU.
DID YOU TWO FIGHT?

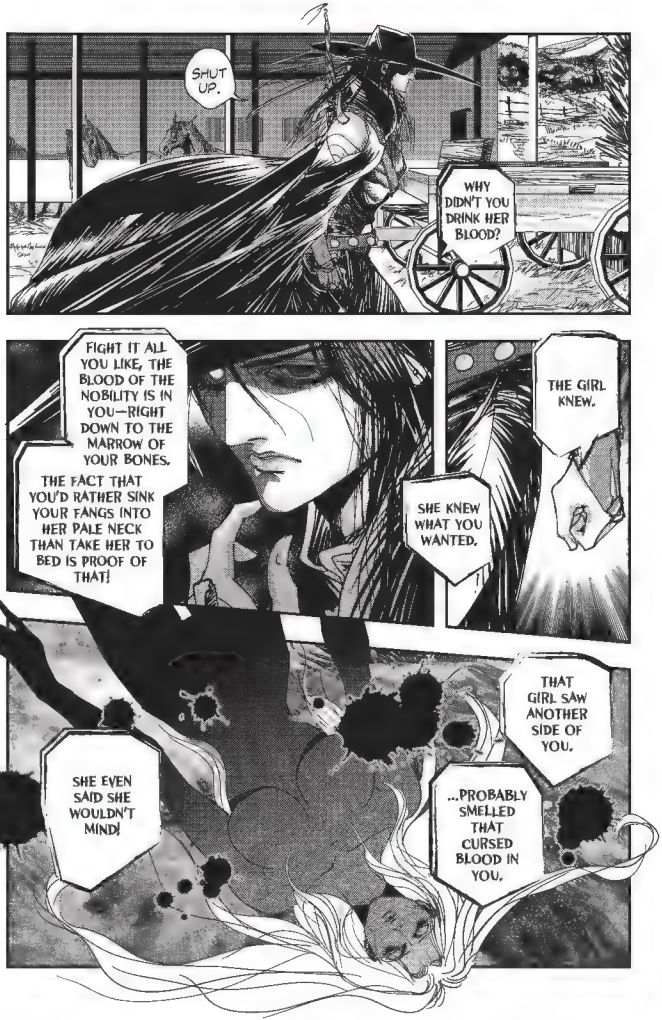

I SHOULD GO APOLOGIZE.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
THAT A MAN SHOULDN'T EVER MAKE A GIRL CRY.
SOMEONE TOLD ME ONCE...

I SHOULD'VE LOOKED FOR SOMEONE ELSE.
WITH YOU GONE I...
I CAN'T GO BACK TO THE WAY IT WAS BEFORE...
YOU SHOULD GO BACK TO THE HOUSE.
BUT... YOU'RE GOING TO GO... AREN'T YOU?
THAT WAS THE DEAL.
THAT WILL END YOUR PAIN.
THAT OR MY DEATH.
!
NO!!
TURN

NO...
NO!
NO!
WHMP
NGRRR ...
?!
WHAT'S WRONG?
!

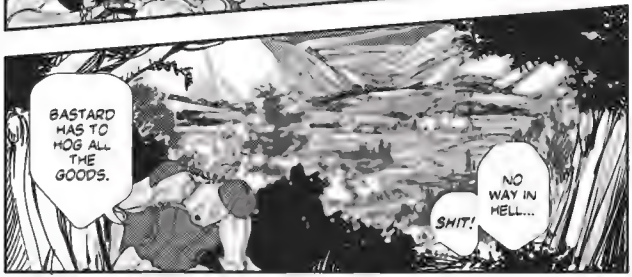
トクン…
FLUTTER
I DON'T MIND...
!
...
...

WSSSHHHH
!
STEP
D...
X-STEP

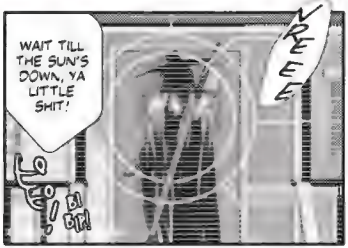

SHUT UP.
WHY DIDN'T YOU DRINK HER BLOOD?
FIGHT IT ALL YOU LIKE, THE BLOOD OF THE NOBILITY IS IN YOU—RIGHT DOWN TO THE MARROW OF YOUR BONES.
THE FACT THAT YOU'D RATHER SINK YOUR FANGS INTO HER PALE NECK THAN TAKE HER TO BED IS PROOF OF THAT!
SHE KNEW WHAT YOU WANTED.
THE GIRL KNEW.
SHE EVEN SAID SHE WOULDN'T MIND!
...PROBABLY SMELLED THAT CURSED BLOOD IN YOU.
THAT GIRL SAW ANOTHER SIDE OF YOU.

LAY OFF THE NICE GUY ACT A LITTLE BIT.
WHY WOULD A GROWN DHAMPIR DENY THE WISHES OF A GIRL?
LISTEN. YOUR FATHER WAS--
SHUT UP.
...
...
BE THAT AS IT MAY, I STILL HAVE TO GO...
I STILL HAVE TO FIND HIM.
WHOA!
BIP BIP BIP BIP

JUMP
HE JUST LOOKED STRAIGHT AT ME!


BASTARD HAS TO HOG ALL THE GOODS.
NO WAY IN HELL...
SHIT!

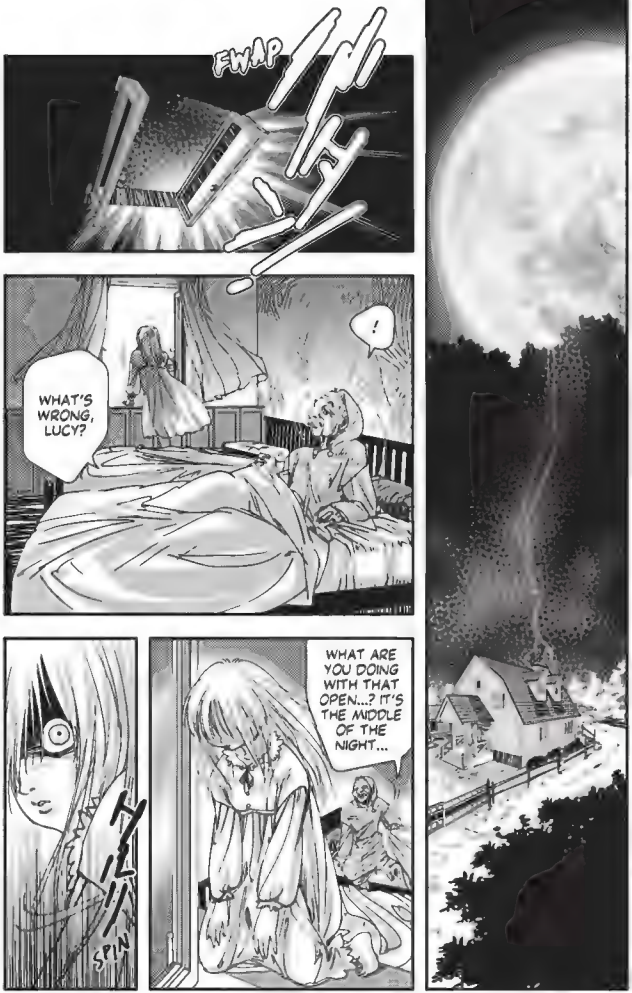
YOU'LL DO WHAT, EX-ACTLY?
GAH !!

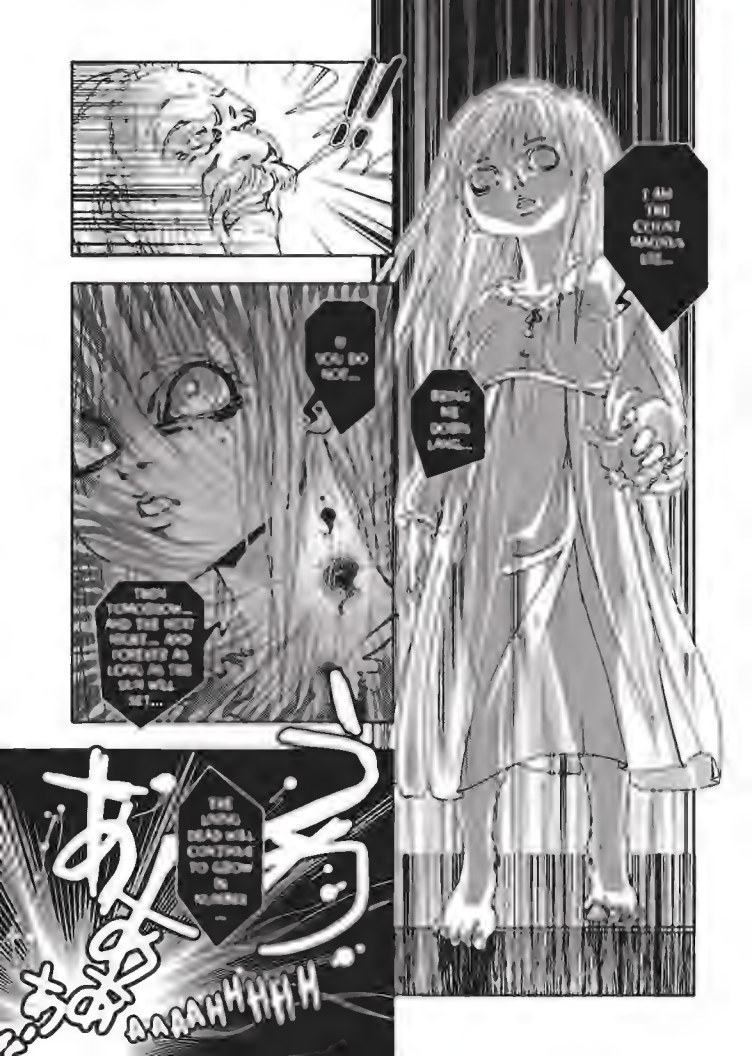

WAIT TILL THE SUN'S DOWN, YA LITTLE SHIT!
KREE
EI EI!

GRIP
WITH THIS THING ...

WH- WH- WH- WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?!
JUMP
DON'T BE FOOL-ISH.
WOOM
I'M THE OWNER OF THAT CANDLE.
AH ....!
I SEE THE THREE OF THEM ARE FARING WELL.
HOW ABOUT IT? WANT TO TEAM WITH ME?
HUH?
AS YOU SEE...
GULP
I HAVE SOME PRESSING BUSINESS WITH HIM AS WELL.
IT'S CLEAR YOU'VE DEVELOPED A FANCY FOR THE GIRL...
BUT THAT BODYGUARD OF HERS IS IN THE WAY.

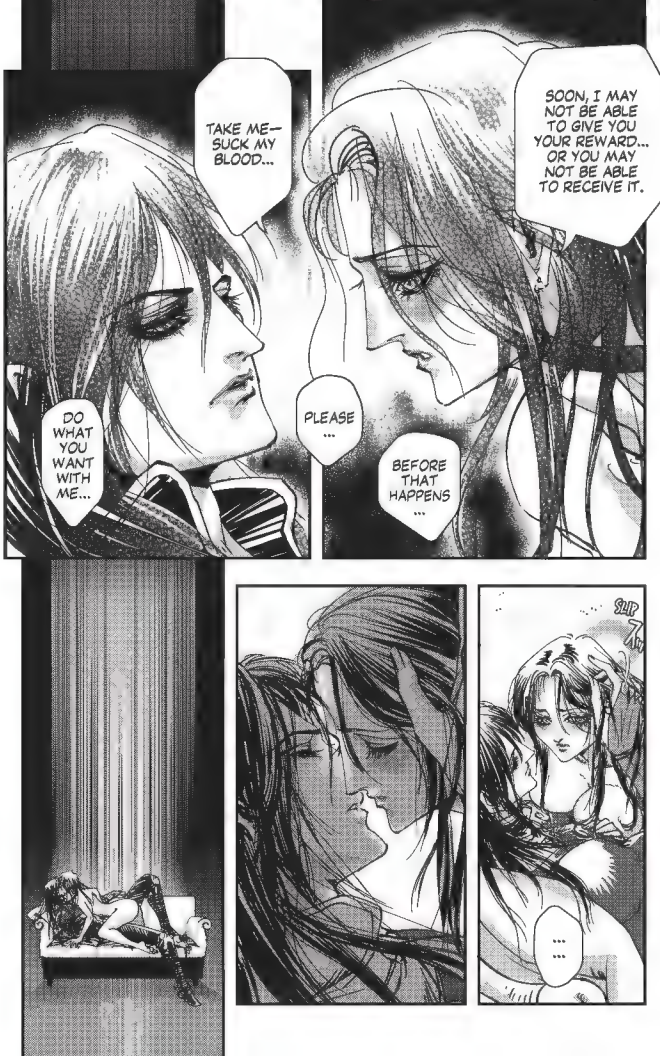
...THEN YOU CAN TAKE THE GIRL AND FLEE.
VERY WELL. I'LL LEAVE THE CANDLE IN YOUR CARE.
YOU'LL JUST GIVE DORIS TO THE COUNT!
HOW DO YOU EXPECT ME TO TRUST YOU?
...AND THAT BATTLE-SUIT YOU'RE WEARING.
FIRST, GIVE ME THAT CANDLE...
LET'S AID EACH OTHER AS FELLOW HUMANS.
I MERELY PROMISED I WOULD SLAY THE DHAMPIR.
DO WE HAVE A DEAL?
SO ...
HMM.
Y-YEAH...
REACH!

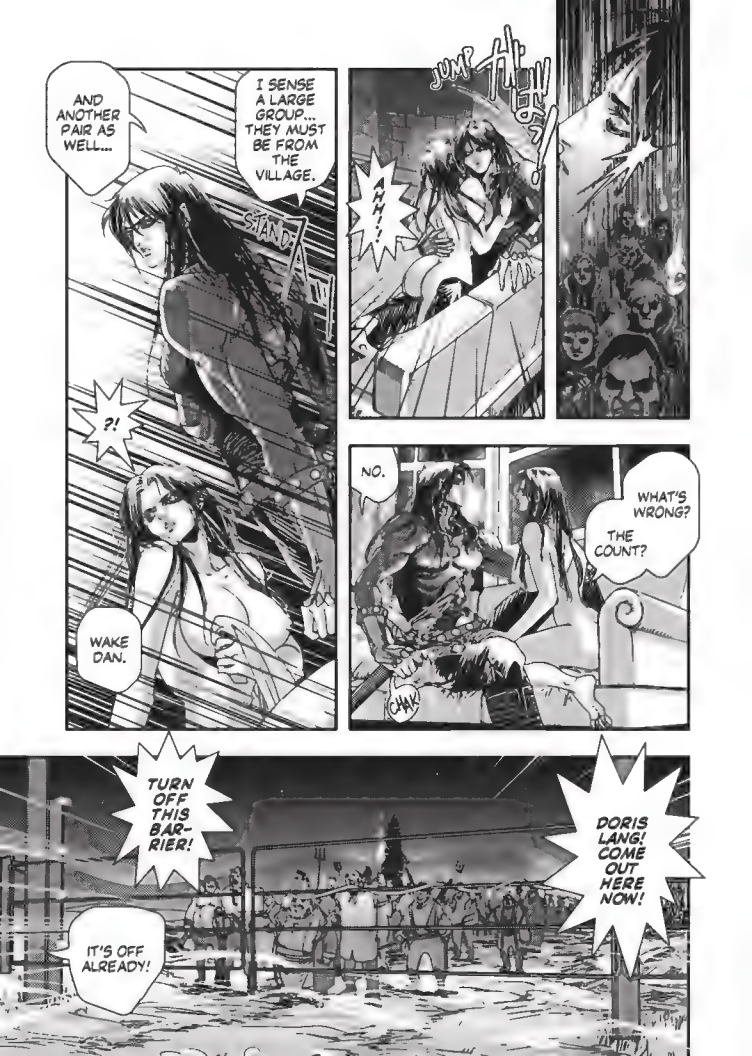

FWAP
WHAT'S WRONG, LUCY?
!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH THAT OPEN...? IT'S THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT...
SPIN


I AM THE COUNT MACHINA LIE...
BRING ME DOWN, LANCE...
YOU DO NOT...
THEN TOMORROW... AND THE NEXT NEXT... AND FOREVER AS LONG AS THE SUN WILL SET...
THE UNDEAD DEAD WILL CONTINUE TO GROW IN NUMBER...
あぁ
あぁぁぁぁぁぁぁぁ

D.
SIGH
フゥ…

I HAVEN'T FINISHED THE JOB.
D...
FWAP
I'LL PAY IN AD- VANCE.
TAKE IT...
FWAP
HEY, I'M...
YOU HAVE TO SETTLE THINGS WITH THE COUNT SOON, DON'T YOU?


SOON, I MAY NOT BE ABLE TO GIVE YOU YOUR REWARD... OR YOU MAY NOT BE ABLE TO RECEIVE IT.
TAKE ME— SUCK MY BLOOD...
DO WHAT YOU WANT WITH ME...
PLEASE ...
BEFORE THAT HAPPENS ...
SLIP
...
...


I SENSE A LARGE GROUP... THEY MUST BE FROM THE VILLAGE.
AND ANOTHER PAIR AS WELL...
STAND
?!
WAKE DAN.
JUMP
AAH!!
NO.
WHAT'S WRONG?
THE COUNT?
CHAK
TURN OFF THIS BARRIER!
IT'S OFF ALREADY!
DORIS LANG! COME OUT HERE NOW!

THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT!
GET THAT PUNK OUTTA HERE!
TO THE ASYLUM WITH HER!
WHAT THE HELL DO YOU WANT ?!
IT'S THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT!
WHERE'S THE SHER-RIFF?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
WHAT ARE YOU ALL HERE FOR?
ざわざわ
ざわ…
THIS IS WHAT YOU'VE DONE!
SHOW HER.
WE'LL LET HIM OUT 'SOON AS WE FINISH DEALIN' WITH YOU.
WE THREW THAT NUISANCE INTO HIS OWN JAIL.

OH MY GOD ...
AND YOU'RE GOIN' TO THE ASYLUM, DORIS!
DRIVE THAT PUNK OUTTA HERE!
THEN WE'LL DEAL WITH THE COUNT OURSELVES!
SAME WITH MY WIFE!
LOOK AT MY GRAND-DAUGHTER! THIS SHOULD BE YOU!
I WOULDA RECKONED YOU'D KNOW TO DO YOURSELF IN!
AFTER GETTING BIT BY A VAMPIRE OF ALL THINGS,

WELL ...
BOOM
...AND HOW DO YOU PLAN TO DO THAT?
STEP
UMM... ACTU-ALLY ...
...DO YOU PLAN TO DEAL WITH HIM?
SLAP
!
UMM...
IF HE DOESN'T AGREE...
SAY... HE'S NOT TO HARM... THE VILLAGERS EVER AGAIN...
T-THEN BARGAIN WITH THE COUNT...
THROW HER IN THE ASYLUM ...
!
WE... KILL THE GIRL HE'S SO OBSESSED WITH...

WHEN WE HAVE HIS WORD... WE TELL DORIS WE BEAT THE COUNT...
AND LET HER GO...
THEN... THE COUNT CAN...
MAKE HER HIS BREED... SUCK HER DRY... WHATEVER HE WANTS...
SHOCK
HOW HONEST OF YOU.
SLIP
BUT AT THIS RATE...!
WE'LL... THE VILLAGE WILL ...!!
CAN'T YOU PEOPLE GET ANYTHING DONE?
I WAS HIRED AT THIS FARM.
I CAN'T ALLOW YOU TO DO THAT.
GASP

I AM REI-GINSEI.
RE-MEMBER THAT NAME.
AREN'T YOU... A WANTED CRIM-INAL?
...OF THE FIEND CORPS?
I'D LIKE TO MAKE A SUGGES-TION, IF I MAY.
I PROPOSE A DUEL BETWEEN ME AND THIS MAN HERE.
ALLOW ME TO BATTLE HIM HERE AND NOW.
SHOULD HE WIN, YOU'RE NOT TO TROUBLE THIS FAMILY AGAIN.
SHOULD I WIN, THE GIRL GOES TO THE ASYLUM. IS THAT ACCEPT-ABLE?
THAT'S ...
HAVE YOU A BETTER PLAN, THEN — ONE THAT THE LOT OF YOU CAN CARRY OUT...
...AGAINST A FOE SUCH AS HE?
OH, AND ONE MORE THING.
...FINE.

SMIRK
UNDERSTOOD.
I WANT MY WANTED POSTERS IN EVERY VILLAGE...
...TAKEN DOWN IMMEDIATELY.
!
WELL THEN...
HAVE YOU ANY OBJECTIONS?
FINE BY ME!
LET US BEGIN.
FWIOSHHH

THURL
VWSH
VWSH
CHING
...
...
I MUST PAY MY THANKS FOR YESTER-DAY.

VWOOSH
WOBBLE

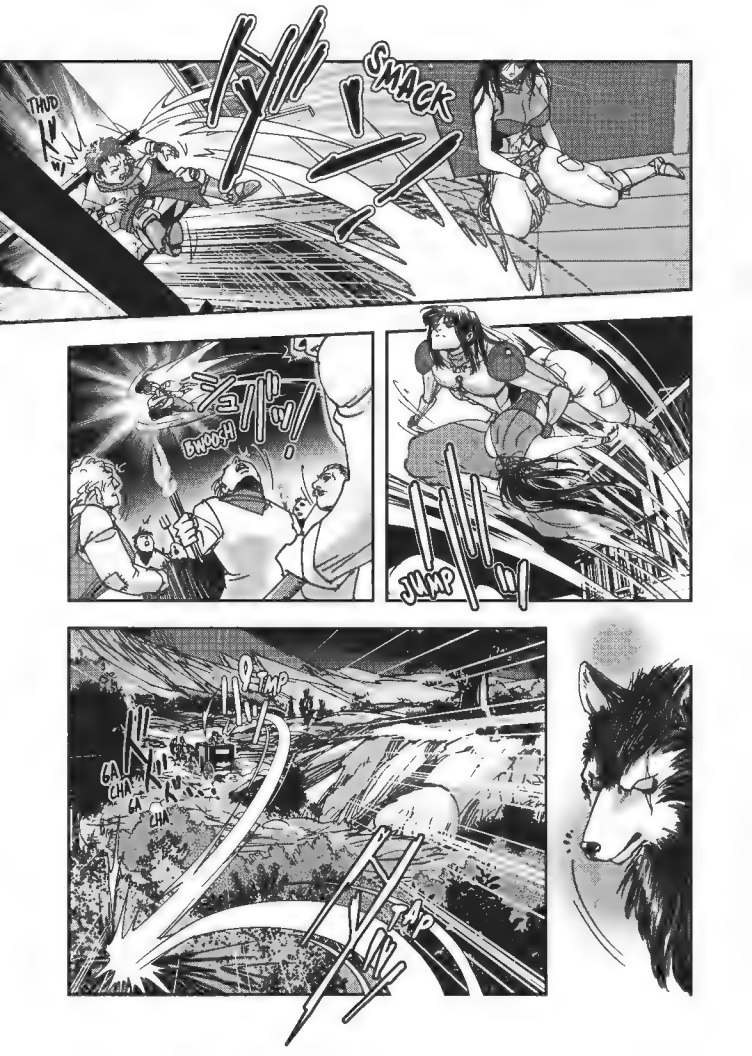
SPPLCH

GAAHHH
YEAH!

N...
NOOOO!!
THUD
ROLL
ゴロリ
WE DID IT, MAN!
77...
FAINT
SIS!!

...
...
WHAT'RE YOU DOIN'?
?
FLOP
FLOP
THIS IS THE HAND THAT SUCKED IN ALL OF CHULLAH'S SPIDERS AND MADE THE MAYOR SPILL HIS PLANS...
I DON'T UNDER-STAND...
THERE MUST BE SOME TRICK TO IT...
I COULDN'T REST EASY IF I DIDN'T DO THAT.
THUMP
I'LL GRAB DORIS AND WE'LL GET THE HELL OUTTA HERE.
FORGET THAT CRAP. LET'S GET A DRINK AND CELE-BRATE!
SPLICH

YOU'RE THE REASON I LOST MY LEFT HAND TO BEGIN WITH.
BWAH
I'M FINISHED WITH YOU.
CONSIDER THIS PAYBACK.
SHUNK
AH!
SWIP
GRECO ...
POP...
P...
STAND
NOW, THEN.


THUD
SMACK
シュボッ!
BWOSH
JUMP
TMP
GA
CHA
GA
CHA
THP

D...
TENSE
DASH

WELL, WELL.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I GOT TO TAKE CENTER STAGE.
EATING SPIDERS AND MAKING BALDY SPILL HIS GUTS IS ALL WELL AND GOOD...
BUT I COULD USE A LITTLE EXCITEMENT NOW AND THEN.
IF I JUST LEFT THINGS THE WAY THEY ARE NOW,
WE MIGHT BOTH BE HAPPIER IN THE END...
SQUIRM
SQUIRM
オオオオ

VWOH
VWOH
AAANNND THERE WE GO.
SKRR
SKRR
HNNG
TIME FOR A LITTLE TRIP.
HNNG
THERE. PER-FECT.
SSHH
ALMOST THERE...
DRAG
DRAG
FIRST, I'D BETTER SEAL UP THAT WOUND.
SKRRSH
DRAG
DRAG
DRAG
DRAG
EARTH ...
CRUMBLE
CRUMBLE

WSHH
CRUMBLE
MUNCH MUNCH
CRUMBLE
WSSHHH
WSHH
TOSS
ALRIGHT, NEXT...
BURP
THIS ONE.
CHOMP
CHLICK
AAAHHH!
I GUESS IT CAN'T BE HELPED IF THERE'S NO FIRE OR WATER AROUND...
...IS WIND.
GAAAHHH

FWISSSHHHHHH
PWSSSHHHHHN
AAHH
VWUMMM
NOT GOOD!
IT'S A NIGHT CLOUD!
GOOD.
...DID THAT WOUND CLOSE UP?
HUH?
JOLT

THUD
NGAAAAAAAH
BFFF
GACHAKGACHAKGACHAK
FWSH
WHOOOHHHH
MOVE!
MOVE!
STUPID, WORTHLESS HEART!
BLARRRRRR
KO!
DUD
DUD
DUD
THOSE THINGS SURE CAN EAT!
IT'LL BE BACK ANY MINUTE.
HURRY UP AND MOVE!
THUD
MMMOOOO!

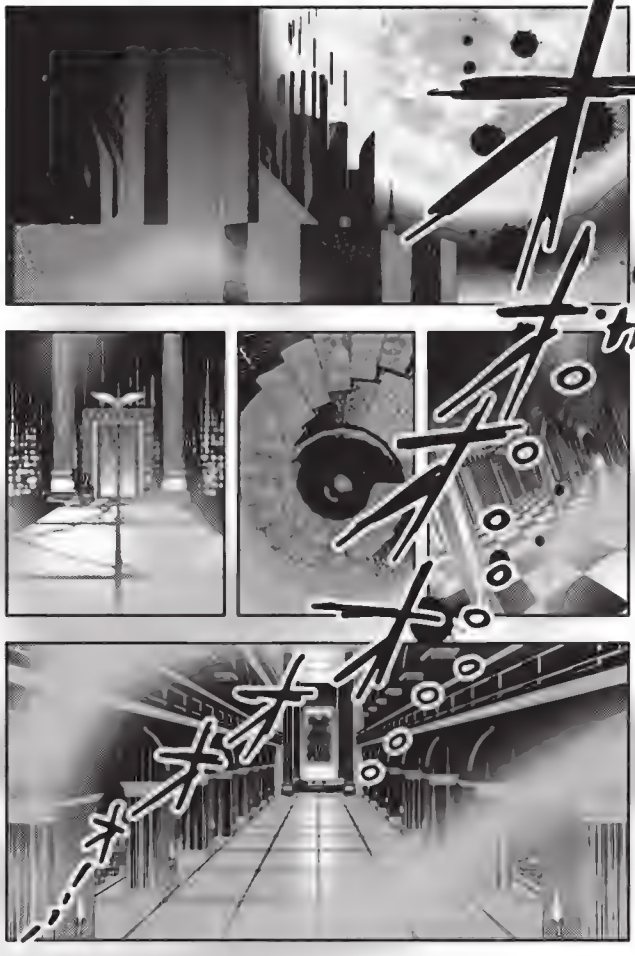
BLUBLUBLUB
KOKOKO...
IT'S ALMOST ON US!
SHIT!
BLOOB
BLUB
KOKO
BLUB
KOKO...
BLOOB BLOOB
WHAM
START BEATING ALREADY!
SHIT!
WHAM!
WHAM
BWAH
BWAH
BWAH
BWAH

シャアアアアッ
SHAAAHHHH

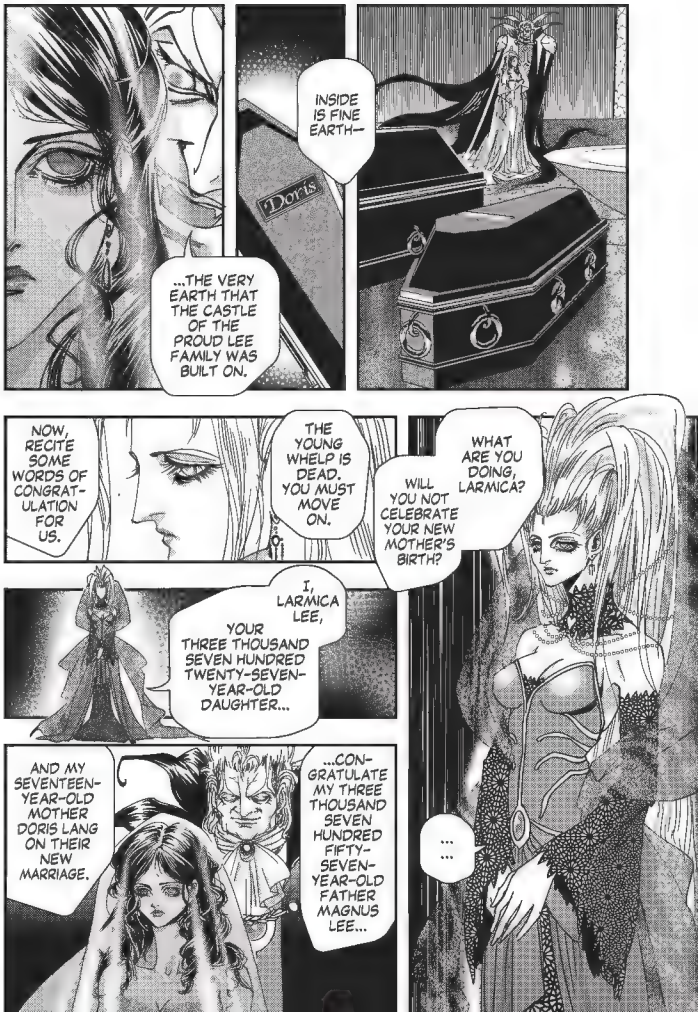
DRIP
WELL, LOOK WHO'S HERE.
DRIP
DRIP
WHERE ARE DAN AND DORIS?
DO YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO SCARE ME LIKE THAT?
THE GIRL WAS TAKEN AWAY.
AND DAN SEEMS TO BE HEADED TO THE CASTLE.
CLICK

GACHAK
GACHAK
GACHAK
GACHAK
GACHAK
HAA
HAA
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
HAA
HAA
HAA
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
LEAP
HAA
HAA

SNAG
WHOA!
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
HANDS OF THE DEAD!
NEIGHING
SNAG
AH!
D!



LOOK.
THERE YOU SHALL MAKE YOUR BED FROM THIS NIGHT FORTH.


...THE VERY EARTH THAT THE CASTLE OF THE PROUD LEE FAMILY WAS BUILT ON.
Doris
INSIDE IS FINE EARTH--
NOW, RECITE SOME WORDS OF CONGRAT-ULATION FOR US.
THE YOUNG WHELP IS DEAD. YOU MUST MOVE ON.
WILL YOU NOT CELEBRATE YOUR NEW MOTHER'S BIRTH?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, LARMICA?
I, LARMICA LEE, YOUR THREE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED TWENTY-SEVEN-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER...
AND MY SEVENTEEN-YEAR-OLD MOTHER DORIS LANG ON THEIR NEW MARRIAGE.
...CON-GRATULATE MY THREE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY-SEVEN-YEAR-OLD FATHER MAGNUS LEE...
...
...

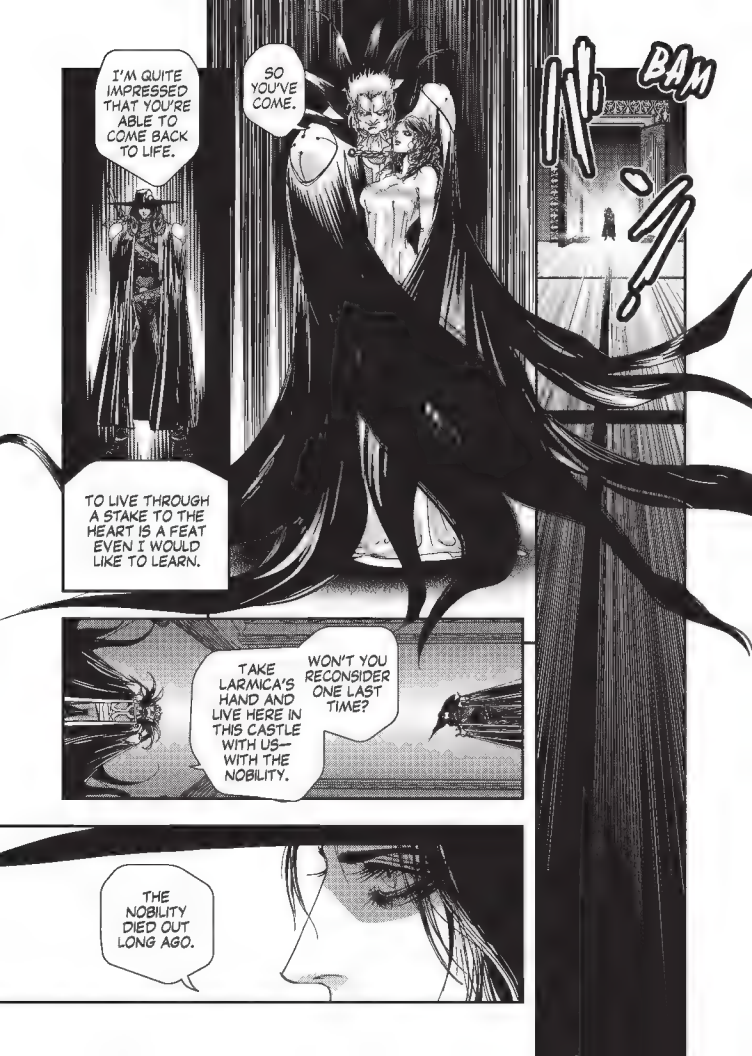
HAAAAAA
AND NOW ...
WE GIVE COUNT MAGNUS LEE OUR MOST HEARTFELT CONGRATULATIONS ON HIS NEW UNION.
YES.
BREEEEE
BREEE
WHAT IS IT NOW ?!
INTRUDER ALERT.
THERE ARE TWO HUMANS AND ONE HORSE IN FRONT OF THE MAIN GATE.
ONE IS A MALE APPROXIMATE AGE— EIGHT.
IMPOSSIBLE!!
ANOTHER MALE APPROXIMATE AGE— SEVENTEEN TO EIGHTEEN YEARS.

WHOOOSSSHHHH
TINK
THIS WILL LET YOU AVOID SENTRIES. WAIT HERE.
WOOOOOO
I'M SURPRISED TO SEE YOU'RE STILL ALIVE...
SHAME IT WON'T LAST.
SHING

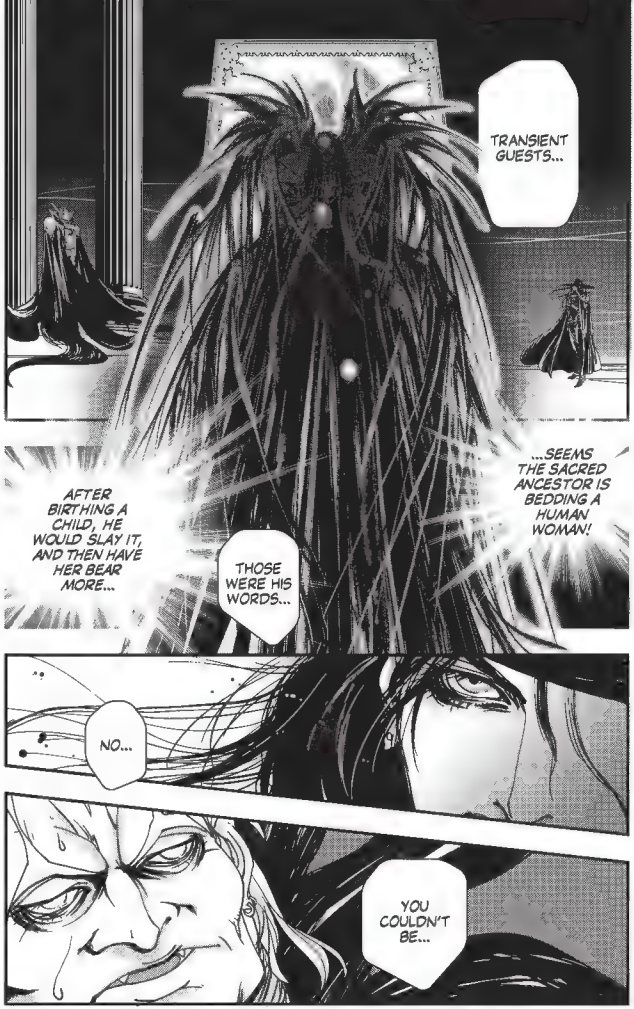
CHING
THIS TIME I'LL DELIVER YOU THE FULL DEATH YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR!
FLING
GRAAHHHHH
GAHHN!
SHRINNGG
LEAP
LUNGE
THUD

TSSS
FSH!
LUNGE
SHAKE
PHYHOM
SHING

PL-
PLEASE
SPARE
ME...
AH—
AHHH!
AHHH!
WHOM!
LEAN


I'M QUITE IMPRESSED THAT YOU'RE ABLE TO COME BACK TO LIFE.
SO YOU'VE COME.
BAM
TO LIVE THROUGH A STAKE TO THE HEART IS A FEAT EVEN I WOULD LIKE TO LEARN.
TAKE LARMICA'S HAND AND LIVE HERE IN THIS CASTLE WITH US— WITH THE NOBILITY.
WON'T YOU RECONSIDER ONE LAST TIME?
THE NOBILITY DIED OUT LONG AGO.

RETURN TO WHERE YOU BELONG.
THE NOBILITY AND THIS VERY CASTLE ARE NO MORE THAN PHANTOMS FORGOTTEN BY TIME.
STEP
LIFE EVERLASTING— IT IS OUR DUTY AS THOSE ORDAINED WITH IMMORTALITY TO LIVE ON WHILE CRUSHING THOSE BENEATH US.
BORN OF NOBLE BLOOD AS YOU ARE, SURELY YOU UNDERSTAND US IMMORTALS.
SILENCE, WHELP.
THAT ...
...IS THE BLESSING THE SACRED ANCESTOR BESTOWED UPON US.


TRANSIENT GUESTS...
...SEEMS THE SACRED ANCESTOR IS BEDDING A HUMAN WOMAN!
AFTER BIRTHING A CHILD, HE WOULD SLAY IT, AND THEN HAVE HER BEAR MORE...
THOSE WERE HIS WORDS...
NO...
YOU COULDN'T BE...

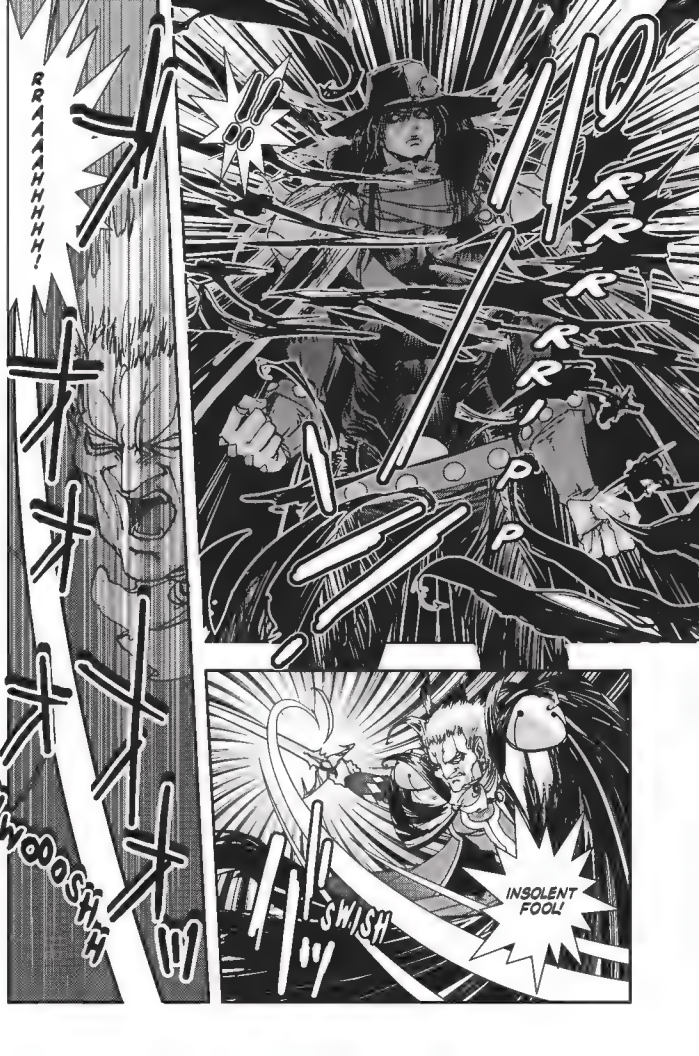
VWOOF
PREPARE YOURSELF, STRIP-LING!
LEAP
DASH

VWIRRR
BWAH BWAH BWAH
TMP
SNATCH
SWISH
TMF
TMF
TMF
TMF
SNICKER
NOW YOU ARE BARE!

CLINK
CHINK
IT'S USELESS.
TNK
KCHINK
DASH
COME NOW! DON'T RUN!
WHAT'S WRONG, HUNTER?
TRAPPED LIKE A RAT?
BWAHBWAHBWAH
THUD
BOOM
LAND
CRUSH

!
GRAB
CHOKE
WRAP
WRAP
JOLT
LOOPLOOPLOOPLOOP

HNNG!
KRIK
WRITHE
SQUISH
BY YOUR OWN BLADE...
...YOU WILL BE SLAIN, AND CEASE TO EXIST.
WRITHE
WRITHE
SHOCK
?!
SHEAR
WRITHE
GUSH


RRAAAAHHHHH!
WHOOOSH
SWISH
INSOLENT FOOL!

SHHHING
JUMP
PULL
SHIFT
TH-THAT SAME TECHNIQUE ...

FLING
FWISHHH
RRIP
RRIP

SPULCHH

I BEGGED THE SACRED ANCESTOR TO TEACH ME THAT TECHNIQUE ...
GAGGHHH
SPLISHHH

GASP!
GASP!
COULD IT BE...? ARE YOU...?
DRIP DRIP
NO!
MILORD, ARE YOU... HIS...?
MELT
BLUB BLUB

ドシュッ

VRRRR
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
VWOOM

THIS CASTLE WILL COLLAPSE ...
SEEMS THE WOUNDS ON HER NECK VANISHED.
IS THIS YOUR DOING?
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
IT IS.
I REVERSED THE CASTLE MAINFRAME'S SECURITY SYSTEM.

THE CASTLE WILL SOON BE NO MORE.
PLEASE FLEE WHILE YOU STILL CAN.
WHAT ABOUT YOU? WHY NOT LIVE ON FOREVER HERE IN THE CASTLE?
THE LEE FAMILY DIED OUT LONG AGO.
IT DIED WHEN FATHER CHOSE A LIFE CONSISTING OF NOTHING BUT FEASTING ON HUMAN BLOOD.
THAT TIME HAS PASSED.
SO, YOU'RE STAYING THEN?
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
PLEASE ANSWER ME THIS ONE QUESTION.
...
...
VRRR
YOUR NAME—

RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
...THAT STAND FOR DRACULA ?
D...
RUMBLE
VSOHHH
FSSHHH

CLUNK
WOOOSH
CRUMBLE
CHINK
CHINK
CHINK
CHINK
CHINK
CHINK
CRASH
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE

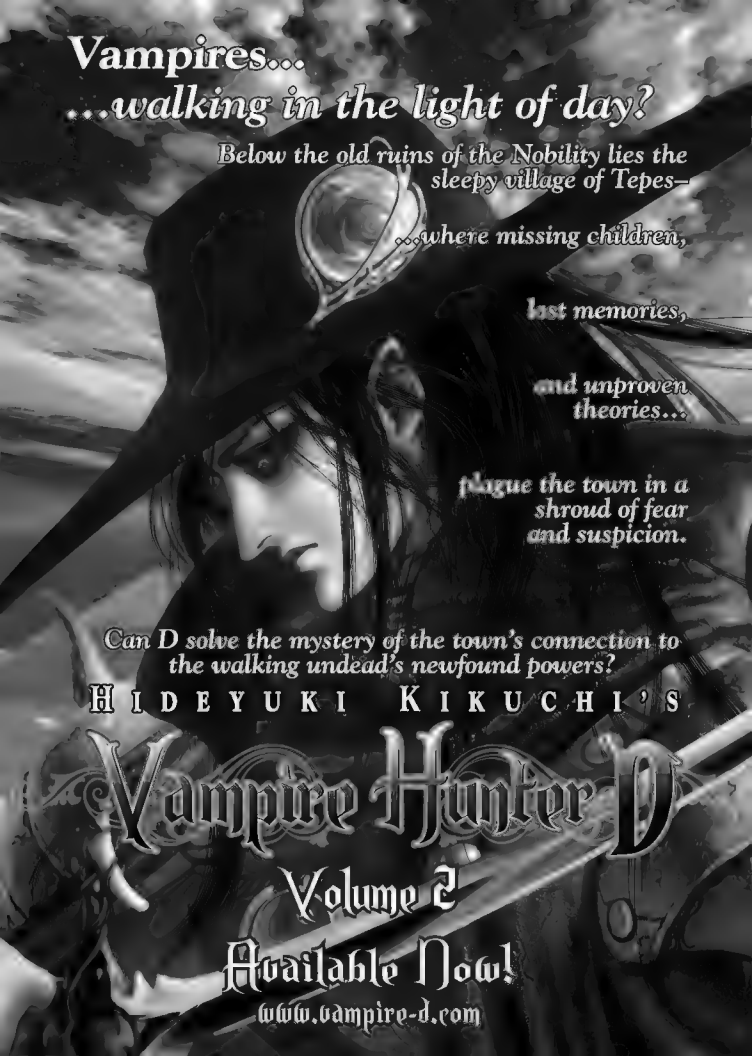
BWOOM
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE

...ON THE LADY LARMICA'S ORDER.
RELAX. I CARRIED YOU TO A SAFE PLACE ...
AHH!
WAKE
RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE
DASH
THEY ARE SAFE, MILADY!
VSSHHH
THE CASTLE ...
RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE

EVERY-THING... IT'S ALL GONE...
AND HE WON'T BE COMING BACK TO US...
D...
LET'S GO HOME, SIS.
WE GOT LOTS OF WORK TO DO.
PAT
DAN...
LEAVE IT TO ME...
I'LL WORK EVEN HARDER THAN BEFORE,
AND I'LL FIND YOU A GOOD HUSBAND.
JUST HANG IN THERE.
...
...
STAND UP?
PAT

DASH
LET'S GO, DAN.
YEAH!

HMM
BROTHER AND SISTER, BOTH STRONG AND KIND... FAREWELL.


Vampires...
...walking in the light of day?
Below the old ruins of the Nobility lies the sleepy village of Tepes–
...where missing children,
lost memories,
and unproven theories...
plague the town in a shroud of fear and suspicion.
Can D solve the mystery of the town's connection to the walking undead's newfound powers?
HIDEYUKI KIKUCHI'S
Vampire Hunter D
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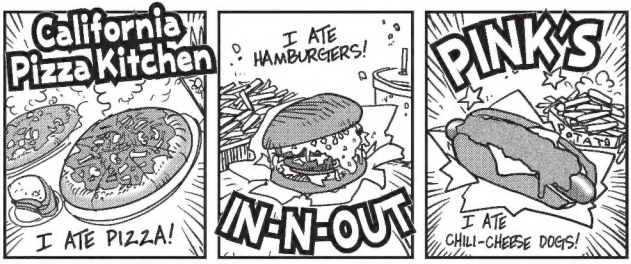
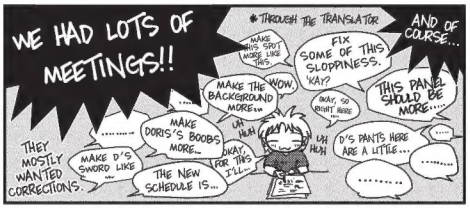
AFTERWORD
I'M SAIKO TAKAKI, THE ARTIST BEHIND THE VAMPIRE HUNTER D MANGA. PLEASED TO MEET YOU. I HOPE YOU REMEMBER ME.
BOW
MEOW
MEOW
LET ME SAY, IT WAS PRETTY TOUGH. IT WAS MY FIRST TIME AND EVERYTHING—I MEAN, THERE'S A LOT OF PRESSURE ON YOU WHEN YOUR DEBUT TITLE IS A WHOLE BOOK. DRAWN IN ONE SHOT. THINGS DIDN'T PROCESS THE WAY THEY WOULD. I WASN'T SURE HOW TO GO ABOUT DRAWING THE WHOLE THING IN THE FIRST PLACE, SO I WAS HELPLESSLY STUMBLING IN THE DARK. I WAS GET THESE WEIRD THINK I WAS
I THOUGHT DRAWING THE HEADACHES, AND THEN I STARTED TO BALDING!! I EVEN GAINED SOME WEIGHT RECENTLY. (IS THAT EVEN RELATED?) HALFWAY THROUGH, MY DRAWINGS WEREN'T LOOKING SO GOOD AND THINGS WERE STARTING TO GET BAD... THEN I LOOKED AT THE SCHEDULE AND I WAS LIKE OHHH NOOO! AND THEN...
AND SO WHEN I GOT THERE...
I RECEIVED A SUMMONS TO CALIFORNIA.
FOR 3 NIGHTS AND 5 DAYS IN L.A.!
COME OUT HERE TO L.A. FOR A BIT.
UH OH!
AHHH
DON'T DO
←Digital Manga SASAHARA

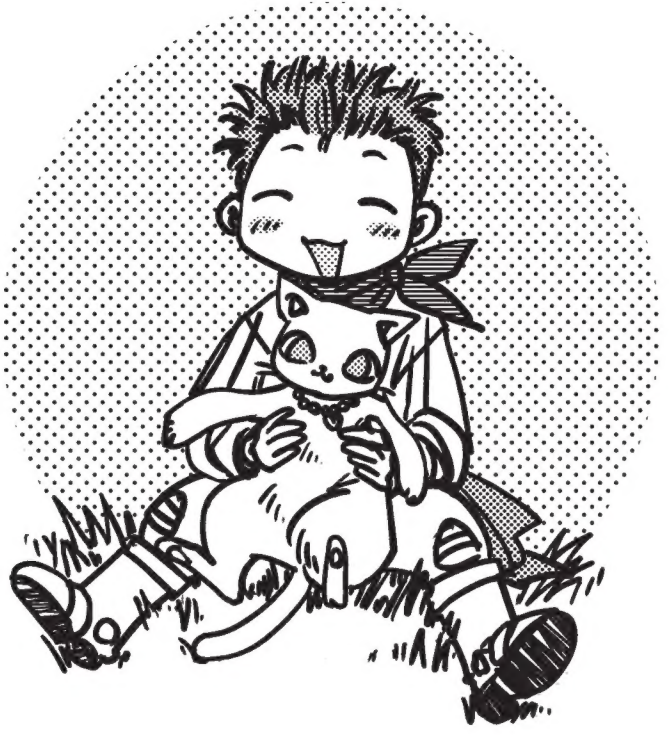

California Pizza Kitchen
I ATE PIZZA!
I ATE HAMBURGERS!
IN-N-OUT
PINK'S
I ATE CHILI-CHEESE DOGS!

AND A CHICKEN SANDWICH FROM THIS PLACE.
Mel's Diner
UNIVERSAL STUDIOS HOLLYWOOD


WE HAD LOTS OF MEETINGS!!
*THROUGH THE TRANSLATOR
AND OF COURSE...
MAKE HIS SPOT MORE LIKE THIS.
FIX SOME OF THIS) SLOPPINESS. 'KAY?
MAKE THE BACKGROUND MORE...
WOW.
THIS PANEL SHOULD BE MORE.....
OKAY, SO RIGHT HERE...
UH HUH
UH HUH
D'S PANTS HERE ARE A LITTLE...
.....
.....
THEY MOSTLY WANTED CORRECTIONS.
MAKE D'S SWORD LIKE...
MAKE DORIS'S BOOBS MORE...
OKAY, FOR THIS I'LL...
THE NEW SCHEDULE IS...

I GOT FAT.
ELBOW GLOW
WAS I TO EAT? LOTS OF AMERICAN JUNK FOOD.
SPARKLE SPARKLE
MY REAL GOAL.

WELL, WE'VE BEEN THROUGH A LOT TOGETHER ALREADY... (MAYBE??)
BUT THANKS TO YOUR HELP AND SUPPORT, I WAS ABLE TO MAKE IT THROUGH TO THE END.
THANK YOU FOR READING. I'LL DO MY BEST ON FUTURE VOLUMES! SEE YOU NEXT TIME!
BYE!
SOMETIMES YOU HAVE TO TAKE A BREAK.



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HIDEYUKI KIKUCHI'S

Vampire Hunter D

1

ADAPTED AND ILLUSTRATED BY

SAIKO TAKAKI

As a graphic designer, I have been involved with character design for games, books and magazines.

My most recent project was "Keita Deguyo TELEFANG" – character design for cell phone games.

About the Illustrator: Saiko Takaki, a professional graphic designer, illustrator, and manga artist, for close to a decade, has worked on numerous projects for the manga and game industry in Japan. A very close friend of the author, Hideyuki Kikuchi, Saiko was commissioned by DMP to undertake the daunting task of adapting his famous novel into manga form. Hand picked by Kikuchi himself, Takaki has proven to be one of Japan's up and coming star-manga horror artists. *Hideyuki Kikuchi's Vampire Hunter D* marks her North American debut.

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HIDEYUKI KIKUCHI'S

Vampire Hunter D

1

ADAPTED AND ILLUSTRATED BY SAIKO TAKAKI

DIGITAL MANGA PUBLISHING

HIDEYUKI KIKUCHI'S

Vampire Hunter D

1

The year is **12,090 A.D.**, and what little is left of humanity has finally crawled out from the ashes of war and destruction; from the darkness of fallout, mutants and a race of vampires known as the Nobility have spawned. They rule the weak with no remorse. Once bitten by a Nobility, one is cursed to become a member of the undead. Villagers cower in fear, hoping and praying for a savior to rid them of their undying nightmare. All they have to battle this danger is a different kind danger – a Vampire Hunter.

Enter **D** – a lone, mysterious vampire hunter, sought out by the desperate Doris Lang. Bitten by the vampire lord Count Lee, Doris is destined to her unholy fate... Can D deliver her from her curse and bring her to salvation, or will she forever be part of the unholy dead?

With the advent success of the Vampire Hunter D novel series, co-published in English by Digital Manga Publishing and Dark Horse Press, DMP continues to push the envelope, bringing what every manga, sci-fi and horror fan has been waiting for. For the first time in manga form, Digital Manga Publishing presents their flagship title for 2007 – Hideyuki Kikuchi's *Vampire Hunter D* – to fans in North America and around the world to be a part of this simultaneous, worldwide, multiple language release!

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FOR YOUNG ADULTS 16+

DMP

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DMPTOONS.COM

READ RIGHT TO LEFT

ORIGINAL WORK BY

HIDEYUKI KIKUCHI

For your consideration:

In the whole history of vampires, I think D is the strongest of heroes. I personally found-picked Saiko Takaki, one of the most skilled artists I've seen, to inject and illustrate this manga. As such, you can expect this book to excel to the utmost quality. I invite you, dear readers... to discover for the first time or for the thousandth, the compelling power of a good book!

About the Author: Hideyuki Kikuchi is one of Japan's top sci-fi/horror writers. Over the past two decades, several of his works have been adapted into live-action and anime movies, including Vampire Hunter D and his first novel, Demon City Shinjuku. Drawing from such inspirations as Horror of Dracula, Kikuchi has spawned over 17 novels in his Vampire Hunter D series.

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